NATION
Trump nominee sunk by 'Fat Leonard' corruption scandal
Page 5

FACES
'Ralph Breaks the Internet' challenges the idea of the traditional Disney princess
Page 17

NFL
Without key improvements, Patriots' 3rd straight trip to Super Bowl problematic
Back page

F-22 Raptors from storm-damaged Tyndall arrive at Eglin AFB » Page 4

STARS AND STRIPES.

stripes.com

COURTESY OF RUSSIA'S FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE/AP

This image taken from a Russian coast guard vessel appears to show an incident between the Russian coast guard and a Ukrainian tugboat in the Kerch Strait on Sunday.

CLASH AT SEA

Ukraine president declares martial law after Russia seizes navy ships

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Ukraine's president declared martial law and NATO leaders gathered for emergency talks Monday, a day after a naval clash with Russian warships sparked one of the most serious military threats in the region in recent years.

Russian coast guard vessels fired upon and seized control Sunday of three Ukrainian vessels attempting to pass through the narrow Kerch Strait to the Sea of Azov, a clash that represents the largest escalation of force since Russia invaded and annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and launched a proxy war in Ukraine's east.

Volunteers with the right-wing paramilitary Azov National Corps, above, hold flares during a rally in Kiev, Ukraine, on Monday.

EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

Mexico to boost border security after migrants try to cross

BY CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico — Mexico looked set to shore up security near its border with the United States on Monday, as police lined up outside a shelter in the city of Tijuana and told Central American migrants they couldn't walk toward the border area.

Mexico's National Migration Institute said that 98 migrants were being deported after they tried to breach the U.S. border, and U.S. agents fired tear gas into Mexico to stop them. Mexico's Interior Department said about 500 migrants were involved in the attempt to rush the border, while U.S. authorities put the number at 1,000.

Mexican officials said the migrants had taken part in "violent" chaos, which originally began as a peaceful march to appeal for the U.S. to speed processing of asylum claims for Central American migrants marooned in Tijuana.

PEDRO ACOSTA/AP

A Central American migrant is stopped by U.S. agents at the Chaparral crossing in Tijuana, Mexico, on Sunday.

WAR/MILITARY

Man injured after driving into Camp Humphreys gate

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A man was injured while driving a car that smashed into the barrier at a main access gate at Camp Humphreys over the weekend, a spokesman said Monday.

The man, identified only as a family member of somebody stationed at the Army garrison, was driving west through the Dongchang-ri gate about 2 p.m. Saturday when the grab barriers deployed, garrison spokesman Steven Hoover said.

"The driver, the lone occupant of the car, hit his head on the front windshield," he said in an email.

Emergency medical service personnel took him to a South Korean hospital off-post for treatment. Hoover said he had not received a follow-up on the driver's condition.

The gate was closed after the crash but reopened at 10 p.m. Sunday. The garrison resumed normal operations after the other gate barriers were checked as a precaution and deemed safe, Hoover said, adding that the incident remains under investigation.

It was at least the third gate-related incident this year at Humphreys, which has undergone a major expansion in recent years as part of a frequently delayed plan to relocate most U.S. forces south of Seoul.

In April, a car going the wrong way through another gate prompted a lockdown of the garrison, but authorities said it turned out to be a misunderstanding involving a driver who went the wrong way by accident.

A South Korean man who drove through a gate without authorization was arrested in January.

The population at Humphreys, a sprawling base in the rural area of Pyeongtaek about 40 miles south of Seoul, has mushroomed to nearly 30,000 after the three main military commands — U.S. Forces Korea, Eighth Army and 2nd Infantry Division — moved their headquarters there, along with families and civilian employees.

gamel.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kimgamel

Air Force seeks civilian help to protect satellites

The (Colorado Springs, Colo.) Gazette

Known for being staid and secretive, Air Force Space Command is now looking for help from a crowd best known for "man buns" and YouTube channels.

The command is offering $100,000 in prize money to programming wizards who can use video game technology to replace satellite tracking methods that would be familiar to mission controllers from the Apollo program.

"I've been using the term 'agile,'" said Col. Michael Kleppe, who is overseeing the effort for the Peterson Air Force Base command. "It is a new way to look at programs and projects."

Called the Air Force Visionary Q-Prize Competition, the software challenge is a way for the command to reach into the basements of Silicon Valley and Seattle, where programmers have been building top-end video games for generations.

Kleppe is convinced that technology can revolutionize how the Air Force is able to think about satellites in orbit.

"What a great way to get out to the nontraditional market that we aren't used to," he said.

Now, airmen across Colorado use numbers-based programs to track satellite behavior. It's not that much different from staring at a slowly changing spreadsheet that must be interpreted into a 3D picture of spacecraft above Earth using brain power alone.

"What we need are 21st- and 22nd-century tools to put on our operational floors," Kleppe said. "We decided the best one to start with is visualization."

The video game-style interface would also play to an Air Force strength: youth.

The drive for a new view of space comes as Space Command works to defend satellites from increasing threats.

The service is not looking for a crew cut crowd, saying the competition is planned to "encourage nontraditional industry partners who have limited means to engage with military customers, such as universities, individuals, and small businesses, to find solutions for safe and secure operations in space. No background in space applications is required."

Watchdog may send inspectors to Syria

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The global chemical weapons watchdog is considering sending inspectors to investigate an alleged poison gas attack by rebels in Syria that wounded dozens, its director-general said Monday.

Syria's state-run SANA news agency said the suspected chemical attack late Saturday was carried out by "terrorist groups positioned in Aleppo countryside" that fired shells containing toxic gases on three neighborhoods in Syria's largest city.

Syria has asked the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to launch an investigation, and officials at the Hague-based watchdog have been in touch with U.N. experts "to assess the security situation on the ground for a possible deployment" of a fact-finding mission, Director-General Fernando Arias told a meeting of the organization's member states in The Hague.

Arias said different sources put the number of wounded at between 50 and 100.

The OPCW's fact-finding mission is tasked with investigating alleged chemical attacks in Syria and reporting back to the organization and the United Nations.

It has probed several attacks in Syria blamed on both government forces and rebels. The OPCW also has recently been empowered — against the wishes of Syria and its ally Russia — to apportion blame for chemical attacks.

Airman found dead at Aviano

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — An American airman assigned to the 31st Fighter Wing was found dead on base early Monday morning, the Italian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

U.S. authorities and Carabinieri officers responded to the scene shortly after the airman's body was found at 1:12 a.m., the statement said. The cause of death is being investigated.

The airman has not yet been identified pending notification of next of kin.

U.S. officials were not immediately available for comment Monday afternoon.

news@stripes.com

TODAY
IN STRIPES

WORLD

Ukraine: Larger confrontation a concern

The United States has since sold Ukraine weapons systems and participated in bilateral military exercises while ramping up military operations along the U.S.-led NATO alliance's eastern flank to reassure Russia's neighbors.

The incident Sunday could serve as a prelude to a larger confrontation, security analysts cautioned.

"It seems like Russia is trying to put in place a new Iron Curtain across the Black Sea," said retired Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, who commanded the U.S. Army in Europe until leaving the service last year. "Everybody should have their eyes wide open."

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko ordered martial law on Monday, set to begin Wednesday for a 30-day period. The move is intended to boost the military's readiness and won't be used to invoke censorship or limit citizen's rights and freedoms, Poroshenko said.

"The attack on the Ukrainian cutters is a Russian-planned element of escalation of the monthslong situation in the Sea of Azov," Poroshenko said. "I'm also sure it is far from the culmination. Intelligence reports discuss a serious threat of a ground operation against Ukraine."

Ukraine said that a Russian ship rammed a Ukrainian tugboat on Sunday. Afterward, Russian crews fired on the tugboat and two navy vessels, injuring six sailors, before seizing the ships.

Russia's Federal Security Service said the Ukrainian ships made an unauthorized passage through Russian territorial waters, and accused their commanders of failing to give proper transit notification, which Ukraine denied. Russian media said that only three Ukrainian sailors were slightly hurt.

'A pretext'

The Russian Foreign Ministry accused Ukraine on Monday of orchestrating a provocation as "a pretext for setting up sanctions against Russia," according to a statement.

For the U.S. and its allies, the incident highlights the growing tensions around the Black Sea, which is vital to the economies of NATO's southern members but also a place where there is a military mismatch with Russia.

"It not only raises the fears of another large-scale Russian military attack on Ukraine, it also creates concerns of Russia preparing for another attempt to gain more territory and seize the Ukrainian city of Mariupol," said Jorge Benitez, a security analyst with the Atlantic Council think tank in Washington. The city, with a mixed Ukrainian-Russian population, is on the north coast of the Sea of Azov close to the border with Russia.

NATO has looked for ways to bolster forces in the Black Sea region and has considered setting up a flotilla of warships that could counterbalance Russia's sea power. So far, the idea of a multinational flotilla hasn't gained traction amid concerns that such a move could antagonize Russia.

Given the lack of naval assets in the region, Black Sea NATO members Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, along with partners like Georgia, should pool their assets, Hodges said.

Turkey, which is more focused on threats to the south emanating out of Syria, could be resistant, he said.

A 'joined-up effort'

To offset weaknesses, more missile defense assets and drones with strike capability based in a country like Romania could be a way for allies to strengthen their hand, Hodges said, adding that "there needs to be a joined-up effort."

Benitez recommended that NATO do what it has already done in the Baltics — establish a small multinational force to strengthen deterrence.

"So far, NATO's response in southeast Europe is imbalanced and not as robust as in northeast Europe," Benitez said. "Today's aggression by Russia is a good opportunity for NATO to better balance deterrence across all its borders, not just the north."

NATO scheduled a NATO-Ukraine Commission meeting at Ukraine's request to discuss the incident Monday afternoon. The U.N. Security Council also scheduled talks Monday.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg "expressed NATO's full support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, including its full navigational rights in its territorial waters under international law," according to a statement Monday.

Earlier, NATO called on Russia to ensure "unhindered access" to Ukraine's ports.

Across Europe, leaders called on Russia to release Ukrainian sailors from custody, return the seized ships and de-escalate tensions.

In Kiev, Ukraine's parliament also was deliberating on a plan to impose martial law for a period of 60 days, which would keep its military forces at a heightened state of readiness.

A de facto blockade

For months, tensions have been building between Russia and Ukraine in the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait, a waterway that connects Ukrainian ports to the Black Sea and then the Mediterranean.

Moscow, which recently constructed an 11-mile road and rail bridge over the strait that connects the Russian mainland to the Crimean Peninsula, has imposed what some experts have described as a de facto blockade as it now controls when ships can pass through. That also gives Moscow leverage over Ukraine and its struggling port cities along the Sea of Azov.

Michael Petersen, director of the Naval War College's Russia Maritime Studies Institute, said the latest confrontation is part of an effort to isolate Ukraine and force it to deal on Moscow's terms.

"Russia is not looking specifically to pick a fight with the West, though they know that there may be a price to pay," Petersen said. "Moscow recognizes that there will be blowback from this, but also that the long-term value of isolating Ukraine is worth the short-term cost of this incident."

The West has condemned Moscow's increasing control over maritime traffic and harassment of commercial vessels in the area.

In September, Kiev announced plans to establish a naval base on the Azov, and Washington has said it is mulling more military assistance for Kiev to counter Russia's actions.

So far, however, the Trump administration has said little about the latest escalation. But Washington's special envoy to Ukraine, Kurt Volker, took to Twitter on Monday: "Russia rams Ukrainian vessel peacefully traveling toward a Ukrainian port. Russia seizes ships and crew and then accuses Ukraine of provocation???"

Stars and Stripes reporter Scott Wyland contributed to this story.
vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

SOURCES: AP, BBC   NOGA AMI-RAV/Stars and Stripes

Ukrainian protests erupt

Associated Press

Dozens of far-right protesters burned tires outside the Russian Consulate in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv to protest the seizure of Ukrainian ships off Crimea.

The protest Monday was organized by the National Corps party, which also called for a demonstration in front of President Petro Poroshenko's office in the capital, Kiev. The group argues Poroshenko isn't aggressive enough against Russia. The group is small but can put pressure on the president.

In addition to the Lviv protests, far-right group C14 published photos on Facebook of a car with Russian diplomatic plates on fire in front of the Russian Embassy in the capital, Kiev.

Ukrainian protesters also burned a Russian flag and hurled flares at the Russian Consulate in the eastern city of Kharkiv.

The Unian news agency reported that the protesters demanded Ukraine cut off diplomatic relations with Russia and nationalize Russian business on Ukrainian soil. They also said Ukraine should stop respecting a 2003 agreement with Russia on sharing the Kerch Strait between the Black Sea and Azov Sea that is at the core of the standoff.

In Kiev, protesters from the far-right party National Corps waved flares outside the Ukrainian parliament. They brandished yellow-and-blue flags with the Ukrainian national symbol, the trident, and a huge white banner reading "Don't Back Down!"

EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

Ukrainian policemen guard the Russian Embassy as smoke from burning tires rises behind them during a rally in Kiev, Ukraine, on Sunday.

As Ukraine tensions mount, Trump lashes out at Europe over money

BY RICK NOACK
The Washington Post

Last weekend marked a new escalation in the lingering conflict between Ukraine and Russia as Moscow closed the Kerch Strait, a vital water route used both by Ukraine and Russia. Ukraine accused Russia of stopping three of its ships and seizing two. Six Ukrainian sailors were reported to be injured. Kiev subsequently pondered implementing martial law, a proposal Ukrainian lawmakers may pass on Monday.

ANALYSIS

Since 2014, the United States has been among Ukraine's strongest supporters, selling weapons and training soldiers. But amid one of the most tense situations since 2014, the strongest condemnations came from somewhere else.

In Brussels, the European Union urged Russia to "restore freedom of passage," and NATO said it "fully supports Ukraine's sovereignty and its territorial integrity."

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump had a different message to the world on Sunday: "Europe has to pay their fair share for Military Protection," he wrote.

"The European Union, for many years, has taken advantage of us on Trade, and then they don't live up to their Military commitment through NATO. Things must change fast!"

Trump's remarks were not new, and even though they show a misunderstanding of how NATO finances work, it is correct that many European nations still spend less on defense than the U.S. does. Trump has previously suggested that the future of NATO might be tied to Europe's willingness to spend more on defense.

Reprising his demands the same day NATO's core rival — Russia — was accused of stirring new tensions appeared unprecedented, however.

"Russia provokes in the east, Trump attacks from the west," wrote David Rothkopf, a former Clinton administration official.

Sunday's tweet will play into the hands of Trump critics arguing that the president has been too lenient on his Russian counterpart. But it is also the latest incident that suggests the president is in large part focused on money, even in situations in which financial gains or losses are difficult to measure.

While defense spending shortfalls in Europe are relatively easy to capture in statistics, the overall financial and humanitarian risks of an open confrontation with Russia are harder to predict — and could cost the United States far more.

Officials: Taliban ambush killed 20 police, 10 soldiers

By Amir Shah
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A Taliban ambush of a police convoy in western Afghanistan killed 20 policemen, while 10 soldiers died in an insurgent attack on an army checkpoint in the north, Afghan officials said Monday as minority Shiites took to the streets in Kabul for the second day to protest the arrest of a local militia commander.

During the demonstrations in the Afghan capital, the protesters opened fire at the police, wounding four policemen. Deputy interior minister Gen. Akhtar Mohammad Ibrahimi said 44 policemen were also injured when protesters hurled stones and other hard objects at them.

The Taliban ambush took place in western Farah province on Sunday afternoon. Along with 20 policemen killed, four were wounded, including the deputy provincial police chief, said Dadullah Qaneh, a member of the provincial council.

The convoy was on its way to the district of Lash wa Juwayn to introduce a newly appointed district police chief when it came under attack, said another council member, Abdul Samad Salehi. The newly appointed chief was also killed, said Qaneh.

In northern Faryab province, the Taliban attacked an army checkpoint in Qaisar district, killing 10 soldiers, said Mohammad Tahir Rahmani, head of the provincial council. Three soldiers were wounded, while the fate of five others was unknown.

The Taliban, who in recent years have taken over nearly half of Afghanistan, claimed responsibility for the Farah attack, the latest in a series of brutal, near-daily Taliban assaults on Afghan military and security forces throughout the country.

The insurgents made no statement on the Faryab assault.

The Taliban view the U.S.-backed government in Kabul as a dysfunctional Western puppet and have refused repeated offers to negotiate with it.

The protesters in western Kabul are rallying to denounce the arrest of Abdul Ghani Alipoor, a Shiite militia leader in western Ghor province. The Afghan intelligence service accuses Alipoor of leading an illegal armed group that is behind extortion and other Mafia-like behavior in the region.

On Sunday, hundreds clashed with police during a similar Shiite protest in Kabul. In that demonstration, three policemen were shot and wounded and 20 were injured by stones thrown by protesters, who also torched two police checkpoints.

Besides those in Kabul, there were also protests on Monday in northern Balkh and central Bamyan provinces but no reports of violence there.

"I can hear sporadic sound of shooting from the area," said lawmaker Nasrullah Sadeqizada of Monday's protest in Kabul. The member of parliament lives near the area and spoke to The Associated Press over the phone.

Mahobullah, a resident from the area who uses only one name, said hundreds of protesters were carrying posters of Alipoor, shouting "Alipoor is innocent!" and demanding that he be set free.

During a previous attempt to arrest Alipoor in June, security forces in Ghor clashed with his followers, leading to the deaths of seven civilians and four policemen.

Samuel King Jr./Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A maintenance airman marshals in a 325th Fighter Wing F-22A Raptor at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., on Nov. 20. The first six Raptors have arrived at their temporary Eglin home from Tyndall Air Force Base.

6 F-22s from storm-damaged Tyndall arrive at Eglin AFB

By Caitlin M. Kenney
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Six F-22 Raptor aircraft from the 325th Fighter Wing out of Tyndall Air Force Base have moved to another western Florida base to continue its training mission after Tyndall was devastated by Hurricane Michael more than a month ago, according to service officials.

During the next four months, the wing's 43rd Fighter Squadron will have 28 F-22s arrive at Eglin Air Force Base, as well as about 525 personnel — primarily maintenance people and pilots — who will come from Tyndall, according to Eglin spokesman Andrew Bourland.

The six F-22s, which moved last week, will begin flying from Eglin on Tuesday.

Most of Tyndall's estimated 55 F-22s were able to move to other bases before the storm, though several of them were damaged when they were left in hangars at the base because they were in various states of maintenance. The last three F-22s that remained at Tyndall after the storm flew to Langley Air Force Base in Virginia on Nov. 16, according to Air Combat Command.

Tyndall Air Force Base took a direct hit from Hurricane Michael, a Category 4 storm, on Oct. 10. It caused widespread devastation to the installation, and the recovery effort is ongoing to get operations there up and running again. Some roofs are still being repaired across the base, and buildings are undergoing mold remediation with dehumidifiers. Along the base's flight line, hangars have large sections of roofing missing, and several buildings had collapsed.

It has not been decided whether the F-22s will return to Tyndall permanently, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson told reporters in a Nov. 2 conference call, Military.com reported.

Tyndall will still maintain F-22 simulator training for students, who will commute from Eglin to use the equipment, said Col. Jefferson Hawkins, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.

The simulator will be functioning at Tyndall within the next couple of weeks, according to Hawkins, and students will be back there training by early December.

One of the reasons that the F-22 training was moved to Eglin is so they could continue to use the same airspace, according to Hawkins. Eglin is about 60 miles west of Tyndall.

Other units from the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall that will move to Eglin indefinitely are the 2nd Fighter Squadron's T-38 adversary training unit and the 372nd Training Squadron, Detachment 4, Wilson has said.

The F-22s from the wing's 95th Fighter Squadron have also been moved to Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii to continue their operations due to insufficient infrastructure at Tyndall.

kenney.caitlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @caitlinmkenney

Historic WWII-era liberty ship John W. Brown could become homeless

By Chris Kaltenbach
The Baltimore Sun

Joe Colgan never considered Liberty ships, those workhorses of the American war effort during World War II, as his friends. Until he met the SS John W. Brown.

"The last Liberty ship I got off, I swore to God I would never get on another one," the Navy Armed Guard veteran, 93, said from his home in Los Angeles, recalling the day a friend suggested he visit the ship, which at the time was a new arrival in Baltimore.

Volunteers were working to make it seaworthy once again, with an eye toward creating a

Jerry Jackson, The Baltimore Sun/TNS

The SS John W. Brown, one of only two World War II-era liberty ships still afloat, is looking for a new home.

combination floating museum, classroom and training vessel. Half a century earlier, he'd disembarked from a Liberty ship in San Francisco, happy to leave the war behind.

But the friend was persistent and eventually got Colgan aboard. Another 20 members of the Armed Guard were also there, and he was hooked. "I went back, and the camaraderie started all over again," Colgan said. He spent the next 30 years helping to keep the John W. Brown running.

But come September, the John W. Brown could be homeless.

The 440-foot-long gray vessel is one of only two fully operational Liberty ships, which transported vast numbers of military personnel and countless tons of cargo during the war — and the only one sailing regularly out of the port city where it was built. It's berthed at Pier C in Canton, Md., on property owned by Rukert Terminals Corp. But a five-year agreement to provide a free home for the John W. Brown — which Rukert agreed to when it paid the state $2 million for the pier in 2014 — expires in September. The nonprofit volunteer group that restored and maintains the ship is looking for new digs.

"We've spent a good bit of time looking for a new, permanent home, but we haven't really had a whole lot of luck," said Richard Bauman, 65, a retired ship pilot for the state of Maryland who serves as captain and master of the John W. Brown.

MILITARY

'Fat Leonard' scandal sinks Trump nominee

BY CRAIG WHITLOCK
The Washington Post

A retired admiral who had been nominated for a senior job in the Trump administration has been torpedoed for his involvement in the "Fat Leonard" corruption scandal, according to Navy officials.

Mark C. Montgomery, a retired two-star admiral, received a letter of censure from the Navy last week after an investigation concluded he had committed graft and taken illicit gifts from Leonard Glenn Francis, a Singapore-based defense contractor who has admitted to bribing scores of officers.

The investigation concluded that besides accepting gifts, Montgomery also "took action to financially benefit" Francis' company between 2007 and 2009, when the Navy officer served as the commander of a destroyer squadron based in Asia, according to Cmdr. Jereal Dorsey, a Navy spokesman.

The Navy also determined that Montgomery lied about his connections with Francis when he was questioned by investigators this year, Dorsey said.

Known as "Fat Leonard" because of his girth, Francis was the president and chief executive of Glenn Defense Marine Asia, which held more than $200 million worth of contracts to resupply and refuel Navy ships at ports throughout Asia. He pleaded guilty to corruption charges in 2015.

Francis has told investigators that he bribed Navy officials with prostitutes, cash, lavish meals and other gifts in exchange for military secrets and other inside information to benefit his business.

A censure is a formal rebuke that will stain Montgomery's official military record but not result in a fine or other punishment. While graft is a crime under military law, the statute of limitations for the offense is ordinarily five years, which would have made it difficult for the Navy to prosecute him.

Montgomery is the sixth admiral to receive a censure in the Fat Leonard scandal; two other admirals have been charged with crimes by the Justice Department.

The White House had nominated Montgomery in June to become an assistant administrator with the U.S. Agency for International Development. In September, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing to consider his nomination, and he appeared on his way to a speedy confirmation.

On Nov. 15, however, the White House notified the Senate that it had withdrawn Montgomery's nomination. No explanation was given publicly.

It is unclear when the White House became aware that Montgomery was under scrutiny. He is one of hundreds of officers who have come under investigation by the Navy and the Justice Department since Francis was arrested

Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Retired Adm. Mark C. Montgomery, a nominee for a senior position in the Trump administration, has been disqualified by his involvement in the "Fat Leonard" corruption scandal.

and charged with bribery and fraud in 2013.

Seventeen Navy officials have pleaded guilty in federal court to corruption-related offenses. Federal charges are pending against 11 others.

In addition, the Navy has court-martialed five other sailors under military law.

Montgomery retired from the Navy in October 2017 after serving as director of operations for U.S. Pacific Command, a key job overseeing all military operations in Asia.

He then worked for a year as policy director for the Senate Armed Services Committee. At his nomination hearing, Montgomery said he was personally recruited to take that job by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who served as the committee chairman until his death in August.

The committee provides direct oversight to the Navy. In that role, the committee staff has received confidential briefings from Navy officials about senior officers swept up in the Glenn Defense scandal.

NATION

Ala. police suggest black man shouldn't have pulled out gun

Associated Press

HOOVER, Ala. — Police in Alabama promised transparency Monday after a weekend of protests in response to an officer fatally shooting a black man who pulled out his legally permitted weapon following gunfire at a shopping mall.

Hoover police initially described the officer as "heroic" for bringing down Emantic "EJ" Bradford Jr. after two people were wounded at the Riverchase Galleria mall outside Birmingham Thanksgiving night. Then they retracted the statement, saying it's "unlikely" Bradford was involved.

Bradford's father said his son was a 21-year-old Army veteran with a permit to carry a weapon. The statement police released early Monday suggested Bradford shouldn't have pulled it out.

"We can say with certainty Mr. Bradford brandished a gun during the seconds following the gunshots, which instantly heightened the sense of threat to approaching police officers responding to the chaotic scene," the statement from the city of Hoover and its police department said.

"We extend sympathy to the family of Emantic J. Bradford of Hueytown, who was shot and killed during Hoover police efforts to secure the scene in the seconds following the original altercation and shooting. The loss of human life is a tragedy under any circumstances," the statement said.

Bradford's parents appeared on CNN later Monday morning, saying police still haven't spoken with them. They want to see body-camera video and they've hired a civil rights attorney, Ben Crump, to help them.

"We don't trust the police de-

> ❝ **It doesn't matter if you're a good guy with a gun. If you're black, the police shoot and kill you and ask questions later.** ❞
>
> **Ben Crump**
> civil rights attorney

partment because they've already lied to them," Crump said. "They released his picture all over the world saying he was the shooter and the police officer was a hero."

Crump said several witnesses have reached out to the family saying the officer shot Bradford "within milliseconds" without saying a word to him. "It doesn't matter if you're a good guy with a gun. If you're black, the police shoot and kill you and ask questions later," Crump said.

The Monday police statement says "body camera video and other available video was immediately turned over to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department as part of the investigation. Now, all evidence has been handed over to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency to lead the investigation. Release of any video will be done as ALEA deems appropriate during the investigation."

The police also expressed sympathy for the family of the 18-year-old man and the 12-year-old girl who were wounded in the initial shooting and said they are "pursuing the initial shooter who still remains at large."
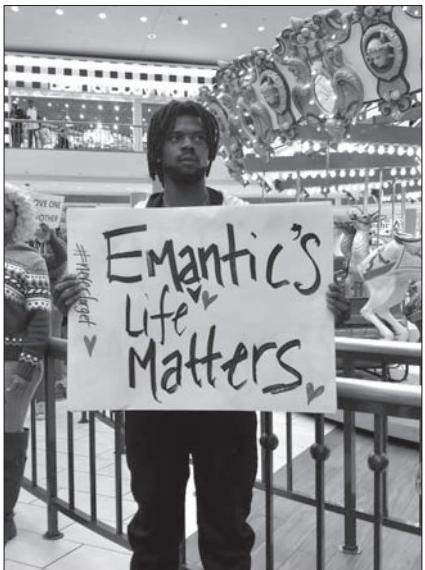
Elijah King holds a sign during a protest at the Riverchase Galleria mall in Hoover, Ala., on Saturday over the police shooting of Emantic "EJ" Bradford Jr., of Hueytown, Ala.

KIM CHANDLER/AP

Former university leader's charges latest in Nassar fallout

Associated Press

Michigan State University's former president was due to be arraigned Monday on charges alleging that she lied to police during the investigation into longtime MSU sports doctor Larry Nassar, who received lengthy prison terms for sexually abusing gymnasts and possessing child pornography.

Lou Anna Simon is among several people who have been charged, fired or forced from their jobs as a result of the investigations into Nassar, a once-renowned doctor who worked for Michigan State and Indiana-based USA Gymnastics, which trains Olympians. Nassar was sentenced to decades in prison after hundreds of girls

Simon

and women said he sexually abused them under the guise of medical treatment.

Here's a look at some of the individuals at MSU who have been affected:

■ **Simon.** The university president and school alumna resigned in January amid growing pressure from students, lawmakers and some members of the school's governing board. She acknowledged being "the focus of this anger" but

has denied any cover-up by the university. The governing board later hired former Michigan Gov. John Engler as its interim president. The school has already settled lawsuits totaling $500 million.

She is charged with two felony and two misdemeanor counts of lying to a police officer in connection with the investigation.

■ **Mark Hollis.** The athletic director and a Michigan State alumnus called his January departure a retirement but he, too, faced pressure to leave. Hollis had been on the job for 10 years. He said he made the choice because of "the scope of everything," adding that he hoped his departure would help the "healing process."

■ **Kathie Klages.** The former

head gymnastics coach resigned last year after she was suspended for defending Nassar over the years. Klages was charged with lying to investigators. If convicted, she could face up to four years in prison. She has denied allegations that former gymnast Larissa Boyce told her that Nassar had abused her in 1997, when Boyce was 16. Boyce has said Klages dissuaded her from taking the issue further.

■ **Brooke Lemmen.** The former school doctor resigned last year after learning the university was considering firing her because she didn't disclose that USA Gymnastics, which trains Olympians, was investigating Nassar.

■ **William Strampel.** The for-

mer dean of the university's College of Osteopathic Medicine is awaiting trial after being charged in March amid allegations that he failed to keep Nassar in line, groped female students and stored nude student selfies on his campus computer. Strampel, who has also been named in lawsuits, retired June 30, even as Michigan State was trying to yank his tenure and fire him.

■ **Bob Noto.** The university in February announced the departure of its longtime vice president for legal affairs. The school called it a retirement. Noto had been Michigan State's general counsel since 1995. Trustee Brian Mosallam had sought Noto's resignation.

US government measures autism using at least 3 different methods

By LINDSEY TANNER
Associated Press

How many American children have autism? The U.S. government answers that question at least three different ways and says the latest estimate — 1 in 40 kids — doesn't necessarily mean the numbers are rising.

The new number, published Monday in the journal Pediatrics, is from one of three periodic surveys the government uses to assess autism rates. It's higher than a different survey's estimate published earlier this year, but the surveys use different methods and

measure different populations of kids, so the results aren't really comparable.

Because there's no medical test, "autism spectrum disorder is a particularly challenging condition to track," government researchers wrote in the Pediatrics report.

The true occurrence of autism likely ranges from about 1 in 59 kids to 1 in 40 kids, researchers say, taking into account information from all three surveys.

"All contribute different information to form a fuller picture," said Michael Kogan, lead author of the new report conducted by the

U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration, a federal agency.

Various reports in recent years have suggested autism rates are rising slightly. Experts think that's mostly because of earlier diagnosis, an expanded definition and more awareness but say they can't rule out a true increase caused by unknown factors.

Here's a rundown on the three surveys:

■ The latest estimate is based on responses from about 43,000 parents of kids aged 3 to 17. They were asked if their child had ever been diagnosed with autism spec-

trum disorder, the formal name that encompasses mild to severe cases. The 2016 survey was internet-based. Earlier ones were telephone surveys showing slightly higher rates, but the researchers say the results aren't comparable.

The nationally representative survey suggests that about 1.5 million U.S. kids have autism — 2.5 percent, or 1 in 40.

■ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention collects nationally representative information from in-person interviews. In 2016, it also asked parents of kids aged 3 to 17 about an "ever"

diagnosis of autism and came up with a rate slightly higher than in previous years but similar to the 1 in 40 estimate.

■ The CDC also uses an 11-state tracking system. It's based on health and school records showing which kids meet criteria for autism, focusing on 8-year-olds because most cases are diagnosed by that age. A report from this network released in April showed that 1 in 59 kids have autism, although much higher rates were found in some places. This estimate is considered the most rigorous, but it's not nationally representative.

NATION

Miss. senator banks on boost from Trump rallies

BY EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — President Donald Trump was stumping in Mississippi on Monday for a Republican Senate appointee who wants voters to focus on her unwavering support for him and not the racial questions that have made Tuesday's runoff election a much closer contest than anyone expected.

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith made Monday's rallies a highlight of her runoff campaign against Democrat Mike Espy, and Trump thanked her right back on Twitter for voting for "our Agenda in the Senate 100% of the time."

But race has become a dominant issue as Hyde-Smith faces Espy, a former congressman and U.S. agriculture secretary who would become Mississippi's first black senator since Reconstruction.

Hyde-Smith has drawn fire for a photo showing her wearing a replica hat of a Confederate soldier, and a video showing her praising a supporter by saying, "If he invited me to a public hanging, I'd be on the front row."

Mississippi has a history of racially motivated lynchings and violence against people who sought voting rights for black citizens. Some 38 percent of the state's residents are black, and Espy is trying to boost their turnout and pick up support from white voters who are uneasy with Trump or the racially tinged stories about Hyde-Smith.

The winner Tuesday finishes the final two years of a term started by Republican Sen. Thad Cochran. He resigned in April amid health concerns.

It's the last U.S. Senate race to be decided in 2018 and will determine whether Republicans pad their slim majority.

Hyde-Smith's support of Trump is unmistakable. She used both her opening and closing statements of the only debate of the runoff campaign to promote Monday's presidential rallies, citing the online address to get tickets. Even on trade and tariffs, where Trump's decisions could hurt Mississippi farmers, Hyde-Smith praised the president.

"I have met with the president, and I proudly support him in negotiating these trades," she said. "All the Mississippi farmers want is a fair deal, and I'm excited that the president has stepped up to renegotiate these deals."

Democrats also have used some star power. Former Vice President Joe Biden has endorsed Espy, and three Democrats who could run for president in 2020 — Sens. Kamala Harris, of California, and Cory Booker, of New Jersey, and former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick — have been to Mississippi to campaign for the former congressman who served as agriculture secretary in 1993 and 1994 under Democratic President Bill Clinton.

For Espy, turnout is key. He has to close the gap in a state where Trump received 58 percent in 2016.

Mississippi hasn't elected a Democrat to the U.S. Senate since 1982.

Espy hasn't hammered Hyde-Smith on Trump at every turn. His campaign has focused more on issues such as social justice, health care and raising wages.

"My approach is Mississippi first," Espy said at last week's debate. "That means that Mississippi over party, Mississippi over person — I don't care how powerful that person might be."

Sen. Cindy-Hyde Smith, left, R-Miss., and Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, greet supporters attending a Hyde-Smith campaign event Sunday in Meridian, Miss. Hyde-Smith faces Democrat Mike Espy in a runoff election Tuesday .

JEFF AMY/AP

Pelosi's foes counting on chaos to deny speakership

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Call it the chaos theory for picking the next House speaker.

Those Democrats trying to stop California Rep. Nancy Pelosi from reclaiming the job say they don't need a rival candidate just yet. Instead, they plan to show that Pelosi lacks the votes in the race. Then, they say, new challengers will emerge.

It's strategy that has other Democrats cringing at the prospect of their new House majority in disarray. The last thing they want is a floor fight over the leadership post when Congress opens next in January.

"If the first Democratic value they see is chaos, I don't think that's very good," said Rep. Don Beyer, D-Va., who recently wrote an op-ed with colleagues supporting Pelosi. "I don't think it's a good look at all."

The chaos theory will be put to a test when House Democrats meet in private for a vote nominating Pelosi to become speaker in January. She held that post from 2007 to 2011, the first woman to serve as speaker.

After one potential rival stepped aside, Pelosi is expected to easily win the majority from her ranks. But opponents have hopes of denying her the broader support she needs when the new Congress holds a vote in January.

One of those organizing against her, Rep. Kathleen Rice, D-N.Y., said recently that the lack of a sure-fire challenger is beside the point. The goal is to force the question.

As Rice and others in the group led by Reps. Seth Moulton, of Massachusetts, and Tim Ryan, of Ohio, see it, it's all in the math.

"The first step is showing that she cannot get to 218 (votes)," Rice told reporters, "and then I believe the challengers will emerge that can allow new members to say, 'OK, here's another possibility; now I get it.'"

Moulton, a Marine veteran, said earlier he hopes it will be "a chaotic debate" for new leadership because "that would be healthy for the party."

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Those trying to stop House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi from becoming House speaker say they plan to show she lacks the votes to win.

Midterms reveal South split along urban, rural differences

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Solid South is no more.

A century of rule by "Southern Democrats" followed by a generation of Republican domination is evolving into something more complex.

This month's midterms revealed a South that is essentially splitting in two. In states such as Georgia and Texas, population growth and strong minority turnout propelled liberal Democrats such as Stacey Abrams and Beto O'Rourke to come close to statewide victories once thought impossible.

Yet the Old Confederacy states in between are mostly holding to form, with white majorities giving President Donald Trump high marks and conservatives a clear advantage going forward.

An Associated Press analysis of election returns along with data from AP VoteCast, a national survey of more than 115,000 midterm voters, found two factors largely driving election outcomes. Competitive races required both a racially diverse electorate and Democratic success in building support from white voters in growing minority areas.

One or the other wasn't enough. For instance, Democratic hopes to make inroads in Kentucky and Tennessee failed because there weren't enough minority voters to rely on. Meanwhile, the GOP maintained its grip on Alabama and Louisiana, states that have a significant minority population but where white voters in metro areas often voted in line with their rural counterparts.

The same scenario could play out Tuesday in Mississippi's runoff election for a Senate seat.

That's what makes Georgia and Texas stand out. The two factors were simultaneously in play to turn statewide elections competitive for the first time in a generation. That didn't translate into victory for Abrams or O'Rourke, but the results could help Democrats navigate the upcoming debate over the type of presidential candidate to select. It could also help the party decide where to send financial and organizational resources.

"The story is the rise of the Southern city centers and the surrounding areas," said Republican pollster Brett Cowden, whose Alabama-based firm Cygnal has polled and led campaigns across the region. "People are moving there from all over, and they tend to be under 50 and college-educated. Those are problem areas for Republicans."

> 'People are moving there from all over, and they tend to be under 50 and college-educated. Those are problem areas for Republicans.'
>
> **Brett Cowden**
> Cygnal

Democrats are happy to embrace those changes, even if they're not uniform.

"What we're talking about here is parts of the South starting to look like the rest of the battlegrounds around the country, where Democrats can stitch together a diverse coalition and win," said Boyd Brown, a Democratic consultant and former state lawmaker from South Carolina.

AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of the American electorate conducted for The Associated Press by NORC at the University of Chicago, demonstrates the dynamic playing out across the South.

Nationally, whites made up 74 percent of the electorate. Among small-town and rural whites (30 percent of the electorate), 63 percent backed a Republican House candidate, compared with 35 percent for Democrats. Suburban whites (33 percent of the electorate) split 51 percent for Republicans and 46 percent for Democrats. Urban whites (11 percent of the electorate) sided with Democrats, 57 to 40 percent.

NATION

TAMMY LJUNGBLAD, THE KANSAS CITY (MO.) STAR/AP

NAM Y. HUH/AP

Above: Heavy traffic is seen on Interstate 190 near O'Hare International Airport in Chicago on Sunday. Left: A shopper dashes to her car Sunday at the Walmart in Roeland Park, Kan.

Prewinter snowstorm batters central Midwest

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A wintry storm was battering much of the central Midwest early Monday, bringing blizzardlike conditions that grounded hundreds of flights and closed major highways at the end of the Thanksgiving weekend.

The Chicago Department of Aviation reported early Monday that average departure delays at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport were 77 minutes, and the flight-tracking website FlightAware reported that more than 350 flights headed to or from the U.S. were canceled.

Heavy snow was expected to continue through the early hours of Monday, with up to a foot of snow expected in Chicago and wind gusts of up to 50 mph likely to cause whiteout conditions, according to the National Weather Service.

Forecasters predicted more than a foot of snow is likely in southeast Nebraska, northeast Kansas, northwest Missouri and southwest Iowa. Downed tree limbs and power lines continued to cause power outages.

In Kansas, Gov. Jeff Colyer issued a state of emergency declaration Sunday. The action came as a large stretch of Interstate 70, spanning much of the state, was closed between Junction City and WaKeeney.

Separately, a portion of Interstate 29 was shut down in Missouri, near the Iowa border.

Winter storm warnings and winter weather advisories were in effect from central Missouri into eastern Michigan.

East Coast bridge closure brings traffic to standstill

Associated Press

PENNSVILLE, N.J. — A Delaware bridge shut down in both directions by a gas leak Sunday evening — bringing traffic on a major East Coast artery to a standstill on one of the busiest travel days of the year — has reopened.

The Delaware Department of Transportation tweeted late Sunday that the Delaware Memorial Bridge was "REOPENED to traffic" and urged travelers to drive safely.

The leak stemmed from the Delaware chemical production facility Croda Atlas Point, located near the twin suspension bridges on a major route between Washington and New York City, Holloway Terrace Fire Company spokesman George Greenley said.

The leaked chemical was ethylene oxide, a highly flammable gas that is a finished product stemming from methanol, Greenley said.

"If that flume would have had an ignition source, it could have been catastrophic with the bridge traffic," he said.

The bridge closed about 5 p.m. Sunday. Croda operators requested it be shut down, the Delaware River and Bay Authority tweeted.

Greenley said fire officials were waiting for pressure to dissipate in the pipes at the facility before reopening the bridge.

He said earlier Sunday that the chemical was dissipating fairly quickly from the pipes, and he estimated the bridge could reopen in the next few hours. The state Division of Natural Resources and Environmental Control was also on scene at the leak.

> ❝If that flume would have had an ignition source, it could have been catastrophic with the bridge traffic.❞
>
> **George Greenley**
> Holloway Terrace
> Fire Co., Delaware

Traffic on both sides of the bridge was being diverted to other crossings, including the Commodore Barry Bridge to the north, causing what the authority called a "parking lot" situation to disperse to other clogged roadways.

The bridge carries Interstate 295 on eight lanes over the wide southern reaches of the Delaware River between northern Delaware and southern New Jersey. Southbound traffic from the New Jersey Turnpike also flows across it. More than 80,000 vehicles make the crossing daily, according to the authority.

Lashrecse Aird, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, was stuck in the bridge traffic on her way home to Virginia from New York. The Thanksgiving commute usually takes her six hours, she said, but she had already been on the road for that amount of time and her GPS told her she had more than three hours to go.

A police vehicle and a hazardous materials truck were blocking the bridge when she approached. She was at a standstill for an hour before being redirected, she said.

"We ended up taking 295 North to get onto 322, directing us to the Barry Bridge, and then that is going to take us back south," she said. "Everyone is coming in that direction, so we are still really not moving."

ELIZABETH ROBERTSON, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/AP

Southbound traffic on the New Jersey Turnpike near Swedesboro, N.J., is backed up as drivers had to exit because the Delaware Memorial Bridge was closed in both directions Sunday night.

NATION

Misinformation is named word of the year

BY LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK—Misinformation, as opposed to disinformation, was chosen Monday as Dictionary.com's word of the year on the tattered coattails of "toxic," picked earlier this month for the same honor by Oxford Dictionaries in these tumultuous times.

Jane Solomon, a linguist-in-residence at Dictionary, said in a recent interview that her site's choice of "mis" over "dis" was deliberate, intended to serve as a "call to action" to be vigilant in the battle against fake news, flat earthers and anti-vaxxers, among other conduits.

It's the idea of intent, whether to inadvertently mislead or to do it on purpose, that the Oakland, Calif.-based company wanted to highlight. The company decided it would go high when others have spent much of 2018 going low.

"The rampant spread of misinformation is really providing new challenges for navigating life in 2018," Solomon told The Associated Press ahead of the word of the year announcement. "Misinformation has been around for a long time, but over the last decade or so the rise of social media has really, really changed how infor-

This screen image shows an entry for the word misinformation, which Dictionary.com announced as its 2018 Word of the Year.

DICTIONARY.COM/AP

mation is shared.

"We believe that understanding the concept of misinformation is vital to identifying misinformation as we encounter it in the wild, and that could ultimately help curb its impact."

In studying lookups on the site that trended this year, Dictionary noticed "our relationship with truth is something that came up again and again," she said.

For example, the word "mainstream" popped up a lot, spiking in January as the term "mainstream media," or MSM, grew to gargantuan proportions, wielded as an insult by some on the political right.

Other words swirling around the same problem included a lookup surge in February for "white lie" after Hope Hicks, then White House communications director, admitted to telling a few for President Donald Trump.

The word "Orwellian" surfaced in heavy lookups in May, after a statement attributed to White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders accused the Chinese government of

"Orwellian nonsense" in trying to impose its views on American citizens and private companies when it declared that United Airlines, American Airlines and other foreign carriers should refer to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau as part of China in public-facing materials, such as their websites.

Misinformation, Solomon said, "frames what we've all been through in the last 12 months."

In that vein, the site with 90 million monthly users has busied itself adding new word entries for "filter bubble," "fake news," "post-fact," "post-truth" and "homophily," among others. Other word entries on the site have been freshened to reflect timely new meanings, including "echo chamber."

The company's runners-up for the top honor include "representation," driven by the popularity of the movies "Black Panther" and "Crazy Rich Asians," along with wins during the U.S. midterm elections for Muslim women, Native Americans and LGBTQ candidates.

But the rise of misinformation, Solomon said, stretches well beyond U.S. borders and Facebook's role in disseminating fake news and propaganda in the Cam-

bridge Analytica scandal. The use of Facebook and other social media to incite violence and conflict was documented around the globe in 2018, she said.

"Hate speech and rumors posted to Facebook facilitated violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, riots started in Sri Lanka after false news set the country's Buddhist majority against Muslims, and false rumors about child kidnappers on WhatsApp led to mob violence in India," Solomon said.

Is disinformation or misinformation at play in terms of the year's most prominent conspiracy theories? Solomon noted proliferation on social media over students in the Parkland school shooting being crisis actors instead of victims of violence, and over a group of migrants from Honduras who are making their way north being funded by "rich liberals."

Elsewhere in the culture, countless podcasts and videos have spread the absurd notion of a global cover-up that the Earth is flat rather than round. The idea of "misinfodemics" has surfaced in the last several years to identify the anti-vaccination movement and other beliefs that lead to real-world health crises, Solomon said.

WORLD

UK's May tries to sell Brexit deal to country

BY JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May made a blunt appeal to skeptical lawmakers on Monday to back her divorce deal with the European Union: It isn't perfect, but it's all there is, and the alternative is a leap into the unknown.

In essence, she urged Parliament: Let's agree and move on, for the sake of the voters.

Britain and the 27 other EU leaders signed off on a Brexit deal Sunday after more than a year and a half of tough negotiations. It was a day many doubted would ever come, but May was anything but triumphant as she reported back to Parliament, which must approve the deal for it to take effect.

Scores of legislators — from both the opposition and May's governing Conservative Party — have vowed to oppose it. Rejection would plunge Britain into a political crisis and potential financial turmoil just weeks before it is due to leave the EU on March 29.

"No one knows what would happen if this deal didn't pass," May told the House of Commons.

"Our duty as a Parliament over these coming weeks is to examine this deal in detail, to debate it respectfully, to listen to our constituents and decide what is in our national interest."

Parliament's vote is due before Christmas, likely the week of Dec. 10. Before then, May plans a frantic two-week campaign to convince both the public and lawmakers that the deal delivers on voters' decision in 2016 to leave the EU "while providing a close economic and security relationship with our nearest neighbors."

But May's defense of her hard-won deal in Parliament was followed by a torrent of criticism, from hard-core Brexit-backers, pro-EU lawmakers and previously loyal backbenchers alike.

Legislators on both sides hate the deal, a compromise that keeps Britain outside the EU with no say but still subject to the rules and the obligations of membership at least until the end of 2020 while a permanent new relationship is worked out.

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said the "botched deal" would leave Britain worse off, with "no say over EU rules and no certainty for the future."

"Plowing on is not stoic. It's an act of national self-harm," he said.

May said reaching the deal had "required give and take on both sides. That is the nature of a negotiation."

She argued that the British people are sick of endless debates about Brexit, and backing the deal would allow "us to come together again as a country whichever way we voted."

"The majority of the British public want us to get on with doing what they asked us to," she said.

The majority of lawmakers appear unconvinced. Dozens of Conservative legislators say they will reject the deal, either because they want a harder or a softer break with the EU. Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, which props up May's minority government, also opposes it, as do all the main opposition parties.

Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay conceded that "it's going to be a challenging vote." But he said Britain would be in "choppy waters" if the deal was rejected.

Migrants: US agents' use of tear gas allowed but will be reviewed

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said on a call with reporters that 69 migrants who tried to cross the border illegally were arrested on the California side.

He said the Border Patrol's use of force policy allows agents to use tear gas and other nonlethal methods, but the incident would be reviewed and the situation was resolved without serious injury.

"As the events unfolded, quick, decisive and effective action prevented an extremely dangerous situation," he said.

But on Monday, the incident had left many migrants sullen, wondering whether the unrest had spoiled whatever possibilities they might have had for making asylum cases.

Isauro Mejia, 46, of Cortes, Honduras, looked for a cup of coffee early Monday morning after spending the day prior caught up in the clash.

"The way things went yesterday ... I think there is no chance," Mejia said.

In rare criticism of the migrants, Mexico's National Human Rights Commission said it "reiterates that members of the caravans that cross our country should respect Mexican laws and not engage in actions that affect the communities they pass through."

"It is important to note that the fact the Mexican government protects their rights does not imply a free pass to break the law," the commission said.

The Sunday incident began

RODRIGO ABD/AP
Migrants run from tear gas launched by U.S. agents amid photojournalists covering the Mexico-U.S. border after a group of migrants got past Mexican police at the Chaparral crossing in Tijuana, Mexico, on Sunday.

after a large group marched to the U.S. border to make the migrants' plight more visible to the governments of Mexico and the U.S. Some attempted to get through the fencing and wire separating the two countries, leading U.S. agents to fire the tear gas.

American authorities also shut down the nation's busiest border crossing at San Ysidro for several hours at the end of the Thanksgiving weekend.

Lurbin Sarmiento, 26, of Copan, Honduras, said she had been with her 4-year-old daughter at a concrete riverbed, which had a trickle of water from the Tijuana River, when U.S. agents fired the gas.

"We ran, but the smoke always reached us and my daughter was choking," Sarmiento said, visibly shaken. She said she never would have gotten that close with her daughter if she thought there would be tear gas.

Fumes were carried by the wind toward people who were hundreds of feet away.

As the chaos unfolded, shoppers just yards away on the U.S. side streamed in and out of an outlet mall, which eventually closed.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said in a statement that U.S. authorities will continue to have a "robust" presence along the

Southwest border and that they will prosecute anyone who damages federal property or violates U.S. sovereignty.

The chaos comes as U.S. and Mexican officials wrangle over the issue of migration and discuss how to deal with asylum-seekers waiting in Mexico. With a backlog of cases that number into the thousands, many migrants appear set to linger along the border for months, if not longer.

On Monday, President Donald Trump took to Twitter to express his displeasure with the caravans in Mexico and to make another pitch for his promised border wall.

RAMON ESPINOSA/AP
A Honduran migrant converses with U.S border agents across razor wire after they fired tear gas Sunday.

"Mexico should move the flag waving Migrants, many of whom are stone cold criminals, back to their countries," Trump tweeted. "Do it by plane, do it by bus, do it anyway you want, but they are NOT coming into the U.S.A. We will close the Border permanently if need be. Congress, fund the WALL!"

Trump has repeatedly suggested without evidence that the migrant caravans are full of hardened criminals, but they are mostly poor people with few belongings who are fleeing gang violence. During his presidential campaign, he promised he'd have Mexico pay for a wall.

4 Turkish soldiers killed when military helicopter crashes in Istanbul

Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Four Turkish soldiers died while another was fighting for life after their helicopter crashed Monday into a residential area of Istanbul.

Even though the helicopter struck a four-story building before crashing, there were no civilian casualties, according to the state-run Anadolu Agency.

The UH-1 helicopter, which was on a training flight, ended up on a street in Istanbul's Sancaktepe neighborhood — on the Asian side of the city that straddles two continents — while trying to make an emergency landing, Defense Minister Hulusi Akar told reporters at the scene of the crash.

The helicopter appeared to have turned over, and debris from the crash scattered around the street, according to video footage from the scene.

Akar said the pilot appeared to be trying to land the helicopter,

which was on its way to the air force base of Samandira, near Sancaktepe, on an empty plot of land to prevent civilian deaths.

"They tried to make an emergency landing for a reason that we do not know yet," the minister said. "(The helicopter) was very close to the air base but, unfortunately, could not make it back."

The dead servicemembers included two officers and two noncommissioned officers, Akar told reporters. The injured servicemember, a sergeant, was in serious condition and facing an operation.

An investigation into the cause of the crash has been launched, he said.

WORLD

Iran says at least 716 hurt in earthquake

By Nasser Karimi
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian authorities said Monday that the number of injured in the magnitude 6.3 earthquake in western Iran the previous night has risen to 716. No fatalities were reported from the temblor.

According to Iran's state television, most of the injured were immediately released from hospitals and suffered only slight injuries in the quake Sunday night. TV news said 37 remained hospitalized.

It said more than 160 aftershocks occurred in the region, including two quakes stronger than magnitude 5. Dozens of rescue teams and several rescue dogs were deployed to the region.

The TV showed footage of hospitalized people. Dr. Hossein Rahnimi, the head of a local hospital, said many of the injured also suffered panic attacks.

The earthquake struck western Iran near its border with Iraq, damaging buildings and sending fearful residents running into the streets. It hit near the town of Sarpol-e Zahab, in Iran's Kermanshah province, which was the epicenter of an earthquake last year that killed more than 600 people and where some still remain homeless.

That earthquake had a magnitude of 7.3 and injured more than 9,000 people.

Sunday's temblor also downed power lines and caused brief power outages into the night as temperatures hovered at about 46 degrees Fahrenheit.

The quake struck just after 8 p.m. in Iran, meaning most people were still awake at the time and able to quickly flee.

The region, nestled in the Zagros Mountains and largely rebuilt in recent decades after Iran and Iraq's ruinous 1980s war, saw many buildings collapse or sustain major damage in the 2017 quake.

Iran is located on major seismic faults and experiences an earthquake every day on average. In 2003, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake flattened the historic city of Bam in southern Iran, killing 26,000 people.

NATACHA PISARENKO/AP

People walk past an exchange house in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The country, which is hosting the G-20 summit this week, is seeking help to avert an economic crisis.

Argentina seeks aid as G-20 leaders arrive for summit

By Luis Andres Henao
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Argentina had hoped to show off its newly market-friendly economy to the world when the G-20 group of the world's top economies begins its first South American summit this week. Instead, it's looking for help to avoid an all-out crisis.

The two-day meeting that starts Friday is meant to focus on development, infrastructure and food security, but most of the talk on the sidelines is expected to center on trade disputes between the U.S. and China and the signing of the new North American free trade deal.

Argentina, a darling of Wall Street just a year ago, finds itself hosting the summit while scrambling for international aid to fend off a collapse.

"The original vision for Argentina was to use the G-20 to showcase that it had transformed the economy and, instead, it welcomes world leaders to the economic wreckage," said Benjamin Gedan, an Argentina expert at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. "So, the timing is inconvenient, to say the least.

"Instead of a showcase, the G-20 is an opportunity to plead for international support," he said.

Argentina was forced to obtain a record $56 billion credit line from the International Monetary Fund recently following a currency crisis and spiraling inflation. The peso has depreciated by more than half this year, and consumer prices are estimated to have risen by about 45 percent. Growing frustration over massive layoffs and poverty has stoked protests that are expected to reignite during the summit.

Still, President Mauricio Macri will want to show improvements in international relations during his three years in office after more than a decade of protectionist policies under the populist governments of President Cristina Fernandez and her late husband and predecessor, Nestor Kirchner.

Even with the economy in turmoil, Macri has resolved a long-standing legal dispute with creditors that gave Argentina renewed access to global credit markets for the first time since a default in 2001-02. He has also improved relations with the U.S. after years of animosity under his predecessors, keeping friendly bonds with President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

"Argentina is in a critical moment when it comes to international debt, and it will seize on this moment to confirm international support from other G-20 countries" that are leading creditors of the IMF, said Julio Burdman, a Buenos Aires-based political analyst and pollster.

Meanwhile, neighboring Brazil and the other Latin American member, Mexico, are both in political flux, with one veering farther to the right and the other farther to the left.

Attacks in Somalia kill at least 23

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Somalia was hit by two violent attacks Monday, one killing an Islamic cleric and 17 of his followers for playing music and a second killing at least six people in a car bomb blast in the capital, Mogadishu, police said.

The car bomb was detonated Monday at a busy intersection in Mogadishu's Wadajir district, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein.

He said 15 people were injured, and the blast appears to have been directed at soldiers who were gathered at the junction.

In the northern city of Galkayo, a prominent Islamic leader and at least 17 of his followers were killed by extremists for having music in their religious ceremonies, police said.

Two suicide bombers exploded in front of the preacher's residence, which is also a Sufi shrine, and then four gunmen stormed the building and opened fire, said Ahmed Awale, a police officer in Galkayo. At least 20 others were injured, he said.

Somali security forces responded, and there was a battle with heavy gunfire in the building. Three attackers were killed in the shootout and one was captured alive, said Awale.

Somalia's extremist rebels, al-Shabab, have claimed responsibility for the attack in Galkayo.

The attack killed Sheikh Abdiweli Ali Elmi, who has hundreds of followers and has been controversial because videos show him and his followers chanting religious poems with music, which some extremists say is not Islamic.

Sheikh Elmi had defended his actions, saying music is not contrary to Islamic teachings.

STEPHEN WANDERA/AP

Divers watch as a helicopter searches for victims of a boat that capsized in Lake Victoria near Kampala, Uganda, on Sunday.

Bodies retrieved after Ugandan boat disaster

By Rodney Muhumuza
Associated Press

MUKONO, Uganda — Ugandan divers retrieved 31 bodies and expect to find more in a capsized vessel in Lake Victoria, making it one of the country's worst maritime disasters and prompting the president to call for more stringent safety regulations.

The vessel was believed to have been overcrowded, with nearly 100 passengers, said Zurah Ganyana, a senior police officer at the scene. At least 27 people were rescued overnight, lower than earlier reports, she said.

The boat, on a routine pleasure cruise and full of mostly youthful revelers, overturned and sank about 7 p.m. Saturday, she said.

Among the many tragic stories was one of a man who went out to help rescue people and drowned when he was dragged underwater by a desperate passenger.

The MV Templa was in poor condition, had been grounded for some time and lacked a valid license to operate, authorities said. Marine police tried to prevent the boat from embarking on the cruise, but they were overwhelmed by the presence of two local princes among the passengers, they said.

"Such boats cannot carry more than 50 people," said lawmaker Johnson Muyanja, who represents part of the district of Mukono, the site of the accident. "Here, we don't have limits. Our problem is that we don't have control. The number of people on board was too much compared to the size of the boat."

The steel-built, narrow vessel was said to have recently undergone repairs, including patching up holes in the hull. It was in and out of business, its operators allegedly dodging inspectors who wanted to impound the boat, said Aggrey Bagiire, the state minister for transport.

WORLD

Congo begins first trial to test Ebola drugs

BY CARLEY PETESCH
Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal — Congo has begun the first trial to test the effectiveness and safety of four experimental Ebola drugs, the first time scientists have directly compared such treatments, the World Health Organization said Monday.

The U.N. health agency described the multi-drug trial as "a giant step" that would "bring clarity about what works best."

"While our focus remains on bringing this outbreak to an end, the launch of the randomized control trial in DRC (Congo) is an important step toward finally finding an Ebola treatment that will save lives," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak in the North Kivu province in August, four therapeutic drugs have been used to treat patients, namely mAb 114, ZMapp, Remdesivir and Regeneron, according to Congo's Health Ministry.

To date, more than 160 people have been treated with the experimental drugs. Patients won't be treated much differently than before, but scientists will now have a clinical trial framework to collect data on the three antibody treatments and the antiviral.

Congo's Health Ministry said the clinical trial began last week in Beni with Zmapp, mAb 114 and Remdesivir. The test could be extended to other sites and include the fourth medicine, it said. The number of patients who participate "will depend on the evolution of the epidemic and the willingness of patients to participate."

Congo, with poor infrastructure, presents a difficult environment for administering the treatments. ZMapp is difficult to use; it takes three infusions, given over hours. If patients are treated with Remdesivir, their liver function must be analyzed regularly.

Because the data collected in the North Kivu epidemic is unlikely to be sufficient for a complete study, the ministry said that the clinical trial may extend over a five-year period to cover several Ebola outbreaks in several countries.

So far in the current outbreak in Congo, there have been 365 confirmed Ebola cases with 189 deaths, according to figures provided by the Health Ministry on Sunday.

"Our country is struck with Ebola outbreaks too often, which also means we have unique expertise in combatting it," said Congo's minister of health, Dr. Oly Ilunga Kalenga. "These trials will contribute to building that knowledge while we continue to respond on every front to bring the current outbreak to an end."

This is Congo's 10th outbreak since the virus was identified there in 1976. The outbreak has been plagued by security problems, with health workers attacked by rebels in districts where the virus has been spreading.

Protesters, mostly women, display placards calling to end violence toward women during a rally in central Istanbul on Sunday to mark the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Thousands protest on UN day calling for an end to violence against women

Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Protesters in cities across Europe and elsewhere marked the U.N. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on Sunday, with tens of thousands turning out in Madrid and demonstrators in Istanbul greeted by tear gas.

Hundreds of women gathered in Istanbul's Tunel Square to march on the city's main pedestrian Istiklal Avenue. Dozens of police formed a barricade and prevented the group from marching, saying their demonstration was not permitted. Police fired several rounds of tear gas to stop the group.

The activists instead continued their demonstration in the square with a sit-in. They chanted slogans and dispersed peacefully.

Rights groups say violence against women is widespread in Turkey, and an online database called the Monument Counter said at least 337 women were killed by domestic violence in 2018.

Activists marched in more than 40 cities and towns in Spain, with tens of thousands in Madrid joining a feminist group and shouting "no more victims, we want freedom" as they marched through the Spanish capital's center.

Official figures show 44 women have died this year in Spain at the hands of their current or former partners. Since 2003, when Spain started keeping records, the total number of victims has been 999 — 972 women and 27 children.

In Brussels for the European Union Brexit summit, European Parliament President Antonio Tajani sported a red swipe under his left eye as he addressed the media. In Italy, his home country, the mark stands for support of the U.N. day.

Tajani said on Twitter that "Nothing can justify violence against women. My mother taught it to me. I taught it to my children."

A woman holds banners reading, "I want to be free. I want to be alive," left, and "I'm free," right, while protesting violence against women in Pamplona, Spain, on Sunday.

India marks 10 years since Mumbai attacks

Associated Press

MUMBAI, India — As Mumbai marked the 10th anniversary of attacks that killed 166 in India's financial capital Monday, the United States made a new reward offer for information on the 2008 siege.

The Pakistani gunmen who waged the attack were killed or captured.

But U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday that those who planned the attack had not been convicted. He called on Pakistan to implement sanctions against those responsible and said the U.S. was offering a new $5 million reward and was committed to seeing those responsible face justice.

On Nov. 26, 2008, gunmen staged coordinated attacks in the heart of Mumbai. They targeted two luxury hotels, a Jewish center, a tourist restaurant and a crowded train station in three days of carnage.

India blamed the attack on the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, throwing relations between the nuclear-armed neighbors into a tailspin. Indian officials accused Pakistan's intelligence agency of working with the militant group to mastermind the attack — an allegation Islamabad denied.

"We call upon all countries, particularly Pakistan, to uphold their U.N. Security Council obligations to implement sanctions against the terrorists responsible for this atrocity, including Lashkar-e-Taiba and its affiliates," Pompeo said in a statement.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the attacks.

"Our solidarity with the bereaved families. A grateful nation bows to our brave police and security forces who valiantly fought the terrorists during the Mumbai attacks," he said in a statement.

Shyam Bihari Paswan, who owns a small shop inside the train station and was shot in the shoulder during the attack, said he has stopped watching action movies.

"When I watch a movie which has scenes of firing, I remember that day," he said. "I have stopped watching movies. I have seen it live. So much blood, so many dead bodies; it was a very bad scene that day."

China's Great Wall crumbling; drones are used to collect data

The Washington Post

Though it's often talked about as if it's a single continuous structure, China's legendary Great Wall is actually a series of stone fortifications that crawl across the country's changing landscape from the Korean border to the Gobi desert.

Thousands of miles long and more than 2,000 years old in some places, as much as 30 percent of the wall "lies crumbling into ruins" as it is slowly reclaimed by the natural world, according to National Geographic.

To reach some of the most vulnerable sections of the ancient wall — deteriorating portions that people have been completely cut off from or that remain too dangerous to traverse — Chinese authorities have deployed a new tool: drones.

The drones have allowed Chinese authorities to map and measure sections of the wall, offering precise data that is already being used to rehabilitate a structure that is widely recognized as one of mankind's greatest feats of engineering, the BBC reported in a video published last week.

Data collected by the drones have helped workers build support structures for vulnerable sections of the wall, the BBC reported.

Welcome to the neighborhood.

You rely on your military community when you're far from home.

We get that.

Use our community sites to connect and share during your time overseas. With base information, travel tips, restaurant reviews and even the score of your son's high school basketball game, we've got you covered.

Stay connected and hey, welcome to the neighborhood.

Visit one of our community sites today!

Stripes GUAM
GUAM.STRIPES.COM

Stripes OKINAWA
OKINAWA.STRIPES.COM

Stripes KOREA
KOREA.STRIPES.COM

Stripes JAPAN
JAPAN.STRIPES.COM

Stripes EUROPE
EUROPE STRIPES.COM

SCIENCE AND MEDICINE
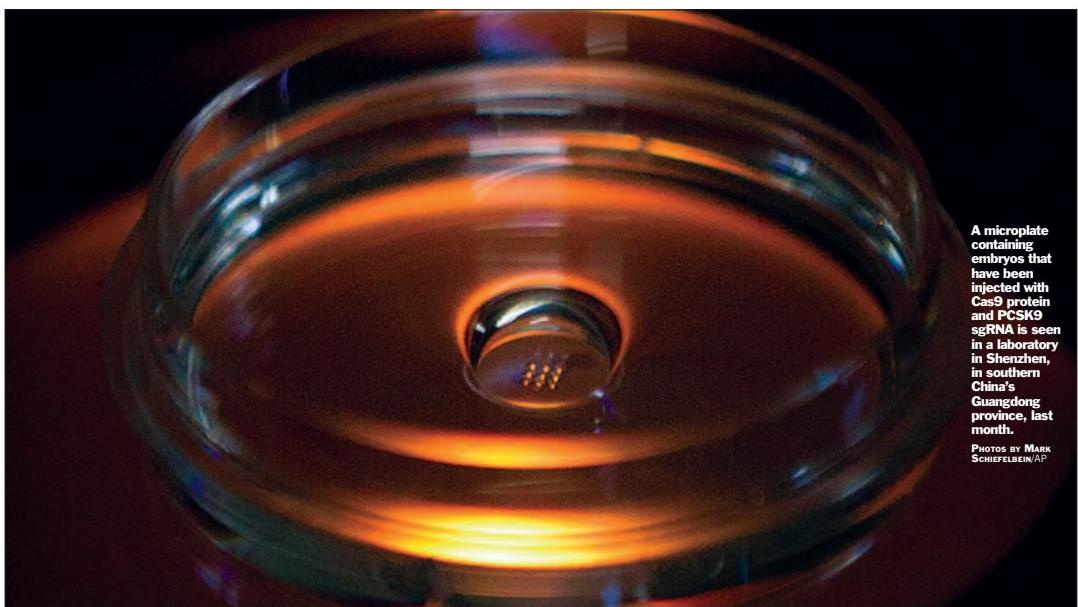
A microplate containing embryos that have been injected with Cas9 protein and PCSK9 sgRNA is seen in a laboratory in Shenzhen, in southern China's Guangdong province, last month.

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/AP

First gene-edited babies claimed in China

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
Associated Press

HONG KONG — A Chinese researcher claims that he helped make the world's first genetically edited babies — twin girls born this month whose DNA he said he altered with a powerful new tool capable of rewriting the very blueprint of life.

If true, it would be a profound leap of science and ethics.

A U.S. scientist said he took part in the work in China, but this kind of gene editing is banned in the United States because the DNA changes can pass to future generations, and it risks harming other genes.

Many mainstream scientists think it's too unsafe to try, and some denounced the Chinese report as human experimentation.

The researcher, He Jiankui, of Shenzhen, said he altered embryos for seven couples during fertility treatments, with one pregnancy resulting thus far. He said his goal was not to cure or prevent an inherited disease but to try to bestow a trait that few people naturally have — an ability to resist possible future infection with HIV, the AIDS virus.

He said the parents involved declined to be identified or interviewed, and he would not say where they live or where the work was done.

There is no independent confirmation of He's claim, and it has not been published in a journal, where it would be vetted by other experts. He revealed it Monday in Hong Kong to one of the organizers of an international conference on gene editing that is set to begin Tuesday, and earlier in exclusive interviews with The Associated Press.

"I feel a strong responsibility that it's not just to make a first but also make it an example," He told the AP. "Society will decide what to do next" in terms of allowing or forbidding such science.

Some scientists were astounded to hear of the claim and strongly condemned it.

It's "unconscionable … an experiment on human beings that is not morally or ethically defensible," said Dr. Kiran Musunuru, a University of Pennsylvania gene editing expert and editor of a genetics journal.

"This is far too premature," said Dr. Eric Topol, who heads the Scripps Research Translational Institute in California. "We're dealing with the operating instructions of a human being. It's a big deal."

However, one famed geneticist, Harvard University's George Church, defended attempting gene editing for HIV, which he called "a major and growing public health threat."

He Jiankui says he altered embryos for seven couples during fertility treatments, with one pregnancy resulting.

"I think this is justifiable," Church said of that goal.

In recent years, scientists have discovered a relatively easy way to edit genes, the strands of DNA that govern the body, using a tool that makes it possible to supply a needed gene or disable one that's causing problems.

It's only recently been tried in adults to treat deadly diseases, and the changes are confined to that person. Editing sperm, eggs or embryos is different — the changes can be inherited. In the U.S., it's not allowed except for lab research. China outlaws human cloning but not specifically gene editing.

He studied at Rice and Stanford universities in the U.S. before opening a lab at the Southern University of Science and Technology of China in Shenzhen, where he also has two genetics companies.

The U.S. scientist who worked with him on this project after He returned to China was physics and bioengineering professor Michael Deem, who was his adviser at Rice. Deem also holds what he called "a small stake" in and serves on the scientific advisory boards of He's two companies.

The Chinese scientist said he chose to try embryo gene editing for HIV because those infections are a big problem in China. He sought to disable a gene called CCR5 that forms a protein doorway allowing HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, to enter a cell.

All the men in the project had HIV, and all the women did not, but the gene editing was not aimed at preventing the small risk of transmission, He said. The fathers had their infections deeply suppressed by standard HIV medicines, and there are simple ways to keep them from infecting offspring.

Instead, the appeal was to offer couples affected by HIV a chance to have a child that might be protected from a similar fate.

He said the gene editing occurred during IVF, or lab dish fertilization. First, sperm was "washed" to separate it from semen, the fluid where HIV can lurk. A single sperm was placed into a single egg to create an embryo. Then the gene editing tool was used.

When the embryos were 3 to 5 days old, a few cells were removed and checked for editing. Couples could choose whether to use edited or unedited embryos for pregnancy attempts. Eleven embryos were used in six attempts before the twin pregnancy was achieved, He said.

Tests suggest that one twin had both copies of the intended gene altered and the other twin had just one altered, with no evidence of harm to other genes, He said. People with one copy can still get HIV.

Several scientists reviewed materials that He provided to the AP and said tests so far are insufficient to draw conclusions.

The study participants are not ethicists, He said, but "are as much authorities on what is correct and what is wrong because it's their life on the line."

"I believe this is going to help the families and their children," He said. If it causes unwanted side effects or harm, "I would feel the same pain as they do, and it's going to be my own responsibility."

> ❝ [Participants] are as much authorities on what is correct and what is wrong because it's their life on the line. ❞
>
> **He Jiankui**
> Chinese researcher

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Auto industry icon Ghosn mired in scandal

By Elaine Ganley
Associated Press

PARIS — A trailblazer and visionary in the auto industry, Carlos Ghosn is also a high flyer prone to excesses that may have helped bring on his surprise downfall as head of the world's best-selling auto group.

Ghosn turned around France's Renault SA and then Japan's Nissan Motor Co., eventually linking them in an alliance with Mitsubishi Motor Corp. in their top-selling venture.

But while renowned as an industry cost-cutter, he spent lavishly on himself, thanks to multimillion-dollar salaries from Renault, Nissan and Mitsubishi. Ghosn's October 2016 wedding to his second wife at the Grand Trianon in Versailles, once favored by Marie Antoinette, featured actors in 18th-century attire, a towering wedding cake and mounds of treats.

Like the queen, the man once

EUGENE HOSHIKO/AP

Former Nissan Motor Co. President and CEO Carlos Ghosn, left, and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. Chairman and CEO Osamu Masuko pose near Tokyo on May 12, 2016.

seen as a king among industry executives in France and Japan has flashed out like a dying star.

Ghosn, 64, was arrested on Nov. 19 in Japan for allegedly falsifying his financial reports and misusing funds at Nissan Motor Co. Prosecutors say he is suspected

of underreporting his income by $44 million over five years.

No charges have been brought yet and Ghosn has made no public comment about the case, but last week Nissan's board, by a unanimous vote, ended his 19-year reign as chairman. The board of France's Renault voted to keep him as CEO, pending evidence on the case, but appointed a temporary replacement.

Mitsubishi Motors' board fired Ghosn on Monday, also by a unanimous decision. Its CEO, Osamu Masuko, will serve as interim chairman pending a general shareholders meeting.

Ghosn is admired in Japan for bringing Nissan back from the brink of bankruptcy but feared for his "cost killer" ways. He started out at Nissan by axing thousands of jobs and closing plants in a country loath to give up lifetime employment.

Over nearly two decades, Ghosn shook up Nissan's hidebound corporate culture, empow-

ering women in managerial roles and enlivening its car design and marketing. He put a stop to paying off extortionate stockholder gangsters, known as "sokaiya," a courageous move that meant he needed extra security.

Taking home a salary several times that of rival Toyota Motor Corp.'s chairman, Ghosn stood out in a nation of "salaryman" presidents, even at top companies, who earn mediocre salaries to finish out mundane careers.

Nissan managers credited Ghosn with working hard, listening and guiding staff to carry out well-defined goals.

He made a point of showing respect to Japanese culture, posing in a kimono, visiting factory floors and eating noodles at company cafeterias.

But he also spent much time zipping by private jet through time zones and cultures, frequenting high-profile events like the annual hideaway of the world's elite in Davos, Switzerland, the red car-

pet at the Cannes Film Festival and a Paris couture show.

Allegations against Ghosn are unconfirmed, but suggest he spent Nissan funds on fancy homes in Paris, Beirut, Rio de Janiero and Amsterdam and on family vacations and other personal expenses.

Nissan CEO Hiroto Saikawa portrayed his boss' suspected misconduct as a betrayal, saying he had too much power and was given too much credit for Nissan's success.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro costs (Nov 27)	$1.1660
Dollar buys (Nov 27)	€0.8576
British pound (Nov 27)	$1.32
Japanese yen (Nov 27)	110.00
South Korean won (Nov 27)	1,102.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	$1.2845
Canada (Dollar)	1.3211
China (Yuan)	6.9416
Denmark (Krone)	6.5718
Egypt (Pound)	17.9532
Euro	$1.1353/0.8808
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8241
Hungary (Forint)	284.45
Israel (Shekel)	3.7099
Japan (Yen)	113.44
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3041
Norway (Krone)	8.5655
Philippines (Peso)	52.47
Poland (Zloty)	3.78
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7519
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3736
South Korea (Won)	1,127.10
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9988
Thailand (Baht)	33.03
Turkey (Lira)	5.2253

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	2.20
3-month bill	2.35
30-year bond	3.31

General Motors to slash 14,700 jobs in North America

Associated Press

DETROIT — General Motors will lay off 14,700 factory and white-collar workers in North America and put five plants up for possible closure as it restructures to cut costs and focus more on autonomous and electric vehicles.

The reduction includes 8,100 white-collar workers, some of whom will take buyouts and others who will be laid off. Most of the affected factories build cars that won't be sold in the U.S. after next year. They could close or they could get different vehicles to build. They will be part of con-

tract talks with the United Auto Workers union next year.

Plants without products include assembly plants in Detroit; Lordstown, Ohio; and Oshawa, Ontario. Also affected are transmission factories in Warren, Mich., and Baltimore.

More than 6,000 factory workers could lose jobs in the U.S. and Canada, although some could transfer to truck and SUV plants.

GM, the largest automaker in the U.S., includes the Chevrolet, Buick, Cadillac and GMC brands. It said the moves will save $6 billion in cash by the end of next

year, including $4.5 billion in recurring annual cost reductions and a $1.5 billion reduction in capital spending.

GM doesn't foresee an economic downturn and is making the cuts "to get in front of it while the company is strong and while the economy is strong," CEO Mary Barra told reporters.

Barra said GM is still hiring people with expertise in software and electric and autonomous vehicles, and many of those who will lose their jobs are now working on conventional cars with internal combustion engines.

Barra said the industry is changing rapidly and moving toward electric propulsion, autonomous vehicles and ride-sharing, and GM must adjust with it.

The factories up for possible closure are part of GM's effort "to right-size our capacity for the realities of the marketplace" as consumers shift away from cars to trucks and SUVs.

The company has invested in newer architectures for trucks and SUVs so it can cut capital spending while still raising investment in autonomous and electric vehicles, Barra said.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

City	Temp
Kabul	52/36
Kandahar	73/46
Baghdad	67/51
Kuwait City	70/55
Bahrain	74/65
Riyadh	70/54
Doha	77/66
Djibouti	87/76

TUESDAY IN EUROPE

City	Temp
Mildenhall/Lakenheath	45/38
Brussels	44/40
Ramstein	37/35
Stuttgart	38/29
Lajes, Azores	70/58
Pápa	34/26
Aviano	53/36
Vicenza	53/36
Naples	53/41
Morón	63/40
Rota	65/43
Sigonella	64/54
Souda Bay	69/57

WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC

City	Temp
Misawa	48/33
Seoul	48/26
Osan	44/30
Busan	58/40
Iwakuni	59/41
Tokyo	59/44
Sasebo	61/45
Guam	87/80
Okinawa	78/66

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Deli owner armed with machete chases thief

NY HUNTINGTON STATION — A deli owner whipped out a machete and chased away a would-be robber who has now been charged with holding up five New York businesses in the past two months.

Ana Guevara told Newsday she and her husband could have been killed in the confrontation Wednesday at Deli and Pupuseria in Huntington Station on Long Island. Manuel Guevara thinks suspect Carlos Garcia had a fake gun.

Garcia, 35, was charged Thursday in robberies at two cellphone stores, two delis and a laundromat. A suspected getaway driver, Angela Reilly, 53, was also arrested.

Police said that after Guevara chased Garcia away, Garcia tried robbing a nearby deli owned by her sister-in-law. A customer there helped track Garcia down by following the getaway car and writing down the license plate number.

Dog hailed for saving family from gas leak

DE LONG NECK — A German shepherd is being hailed as a hero after alerting a Delaware family to a potentially fatal gas leak.

The News Journal reported that Greta barked to wake up her owner in the middle of the night earlier this month and alerted him to a leak from a propane stove. The gas had filled several rooms in the house.

Owner Ken Walsh called Greta, a rescue dog, a "hero" for alerting him to the gas leak before it hurt him, his wife and their son, 14.

Walsh said Greta was rewarded with a steak and sweet potatoes.

Town mulls future after all police officers quit

VT RANDOLPH — Officials in the Vermont town of Randolph are considering what to do about local law enforcement after all members of the local police department quit over the course of the year.

Vermont Public Radio reported that the members of the department didn't quit all at once to make a statement; the officers just moved on to other opportunities.

Since the spring, all six full-time members quit, one by one, the last one leaving in September. Since then, the Orange County Sheriff's Department has covered the town of about 2,000.

Dog knocks over gun, injuring duck hunter

UT CORINNE — Authorities in northern Utah said a man hunting ducks was wounded in the arm when a shotgun discharged after apparently being bumped or knocked over by his dog.

Box Elder County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Dale Ward said the man shot Friday at Chesapeake Gun Club near Corinne needed to be treated at a hospital but that his forearm wound isn't life-threatening.

LEILA NAVIDI, (MINNEAPOLIS) STAR TRIBUNE/AP

Firefighters respond to house explosion

Firefighters work at the scene of a house explosion in St. Paul, Minn., on Friday. Authorities said a gas leak could be to blame for the explosion. John Lundahl, 80, suffered burns and a broken arm and pelvis in the explosion, and 11 people were displaced.

Restaurant patron saves choking baby

NC HENDERSONVILLE — A baby choking on mashed potatoes at a restaurant during Thanksgiving was saved by a quick-acting patron who performed first aid.

News outlets reported that Hannah Jarvis and her 7-month-old daughter, Calli, were celebrating Thanksgiving at the Golden Corral restaurant when the baby started choking.

Restaurant patron Debra Rouse performed back blows on the baby, who started breathing again.

Jarvis said her daughter was treated at an emergency room and is doing fine.

Dead sea lions with gunshot wounds found

WA SEATTLE — Since September, six sea lions have died from gunshot wounds in central Puget Sound and Kitsap County.

The Seattle Times reported that another seven are suspected to have died from "acute trauma" caused by humans, including a decomposed sea lion with its head sliced off found washed ashore Nov. 20 in a West Seattle cove.

That's according to Seal Sitters Marine Mammal Stranding Network, a group that responds to reports of stranded or dead sea lions.

Michael Milstein, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration fisheries spokesman, has confirmed the deaths of five California sea lions in West Seattle, including four that died of gunshot wounds.

Man throws rock at police HQ glass door

KS TOPEKA — Authorities said a man walked up to the Topeka police headquarters and threw a rock through the glass front door.

Police said an officer working the front desk heard the glass break about 10 p.m. Friday and thought the person had shot through the door. An emergency call drew officers from several surrounding agencies.

Officers took the suspected rock thrower into custody. He wasn't identified because he appeared to be having a mental crisis.

Truck hits house, pins woman against couch

FL TAMPA — Deputies in Florida said a pickup truck slammed into the front wall of a house, pinning a 71-year-old woman against a couch in her living room.

Hillsborough County sheriff's officials said it took about 30 minutes to free the woman Saturday evening. She was flown to St. Joseph's Hospital in critical condition.

The driver of the pickup truck fled after the crash. Deputies are still searching for him.

Bear strolls into highway patrol office

CA TRUCKEE — A bear had no trouble opening a door as it strolled into a California Highway Patrol office in a mountain town on Nov. 17.

In an online video shared by the CHP on Saturday, the bear is seen through a window standing on its back legs outside the Donner Pass Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility.

The animal has a peek inside and then pulls the door open. It drops to all fours and wanders past a vending machine and into the office in Truckee, north of Lake Tahoe.

The bear can be seen reflected in a window as it looks around.

Eventually, the bear walks out the same way it came in. Moments later, two armed officers follow the animal out the door.

From wire reports

FACES

Vanellope von Schweetz, center, voiced by Sarah Silverman, poses for a selfie with Disney princesses in a scene from "Ralph Breaks the Internet." Filmmakers invited the original voice talent to return to the studio to help bring their characters to life.

DISNEY/AP

'Ralph' writer breaks boundaries

Movie script daringly spoofs the Disney princess industrial complex

BY MICHAEL CAVNA
The Washington Post

Pamela Ribon was so anxious about her idea, she had to pause to ask herself: If I write this, will it get me fired?

As a storyteller, Ribon knows her way around a modern Disney princess, having worked for about two years on the hit "Moana." And she says her gift for crafting dialogue of strong, funny female characters had helped her become a writer on Disney's "Ralph Breaks the Internet," the sequel to Rich Moore's Oscar-nominated 2012 smash "Wreck-It Ralph."

So it was with a taste for the satiric that Ribon began to muse: What if, at one point in the film, I surrounded Vanellope von Schweetz, the "Ralph" franchise's endearingly daring video-game racer (voiced by Sarah Silverman), with enough Disney princesses that it resembled a sorority reunion — and then teasingly lampooned their tropes?

Ribon approached the concept's first draft with the joyful abandon of someone who believed her studio bosses would never actually permit such a comedic palace coup. And so she dragooned the young, well-tressed Disney women, representing eight decades of animated studio history, to quiz the new kid by asking her whether she meets any of the criteria of a stock Disney princess, such as being the victim of a poisoning or doomed parentage.

But then came the true twist: Vanellope's story detour not only got a green light, but the princesses' meta-meetup also became one of the film's best scenes. Despite the long history of Disney princess parodies, memes and YouTube spoofage by outsider comedians at the gate, the Magic Kingdom itself has just topped 'em all. As Cinder-satire goes, it's game over — winner, Team "Ralph."

All because writer and comedian Ribon adored the internet-hopping Vanellope enough that she believed the big-hearted girl was worthy of being coronated as Disney royalty.

Early on in the making of "Moana," Ribon says, the writers were wondering about their island heroine: "Will she be a princess? What does that mean?"

That conversation carried over to the early story stages of the "Ralph" sequel. "I thought: 'Gosh, why isn't Vanellope canon?'" Ribon says. "To me, she's my kind of princess — in a hoodie."

"At first we were joking about Vanellope photobombing the (seven) dwarfs," Ribon says. That brainstorming evolved into having Vanellope — who goes AWOL from her Sugar Rush game — come upon the Oh My Disney area of the Internet.

"What if they're trying to determine whether or not she's canon — whatever that thing (is) that they decide at Disneyland that allows some of them to get their coronation," Ribon says of having the princesses grill Vanellope on her potentially royal résumé. "And so I took it from there."

But while executing her idea, Ribon says, she began to have a "true panic attack," so she contacted a friend — a walking Wikipedia of Disney facts — and told her: "I have all these tropes and I just want to make sure I have the right princesses. Which ones were kidnapped? Which ones have daddy issues?

"She was like: 'What are you doing?'"

For "Ralph's" princess-lounge hangout, Ribon began to hear the voices of many of the actresses who originated the roles. So the film brought in many of them to reprise their roles, including Kristen Bell and Idina Menzel from "Frozen," Mandy Moore from "Rapunzel" and Kelly Macdonald from "Brave."

Finally, with almost no expectations, she ran the idea past the directors, Rich Moore and Phil Johnston ("Zootopia"), and producers, all the while thinking: "They're not going to let me do this Ariel joke."

Instead came Moore's encouraging response. "The idea of satirizing Disney," he tells The Post, "is the greatest gift we have been given."

Plus, Johnston says, they reasoned that because the film's setting is "the internet, you can do anything — you can go anywhere. So why can't Vanellope show up at a website where there are the Disney princesses?"

As the princess encounter evolved, the writers played off the fact that not only do Disney princesses often get kidnapped, but that they are forever gazing into "important waters." The scene also skewers the reliance on a lumbering hunk to solve a damsel's thorny problem.

Ribon said she's still feeling a little anxious about poking fun at the princesses who populate the Kingdom.

"I'm glad people have really liked it," she says, "but I don't think I've truly exhaled yet."

Getting the voices right

The "Ralph Breaks the Internet" producers secured other past princess vocal actors, including Irene Bedard ("Pocahontas"), Jodi Benson ("Little Mermaid"), Auli'i Cravalho ("Moana"), Paige O'Hara ("Beauty and the Beast"), Linda Larkin ("Aladdin"), Anika Noni Rose ("The Princess and the Frog") and Ming-Na Wen ("Mulan") — and screenwriter Pamela Ribon supplied the voice of Snow White. (Adriana Caselotti, who voiced the title princess in 1937's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," died in 1997.)

All the actresses, Ribon says, clearly relished lampooning their characters with affectionate respect — including how the princesses let their hair down and speak with heightened awareness about their lives. The directors loved it, too.

"It's like when I make fun of my dad," co-director Phil Johnston says. "Yes, I can do that — I love my dad and I love his foibles. We are coming at this from a place of love."

Sequels fuel big holiday box office

Associated Press

Movie sequels are having their own Thanksgiving feast at the box office and fueling record industry-wide grosses for the long weekend.

"Ralph Breaks the Internet" and "Creed II" took the top two spots on the North American charts, beat the openings for the original films and helped the five-day Thanksgiving box office totals cross the $300 million mark for the first time.

Studios on Sunday said Disney's "Wreck-It Ralph" sequel earned an estimated $55.7 million over the three-day weekend and $84.5 million since its Wednesday opening to take first place and become one of the biggest Thanksgiving openings of all time.

Its five-day Thanksgiving grosses are the third highest of all time, behind "Frozen" and "Hunger Games: Catching Fire."

The film sees the return of the vocal talents of John C. Reilly and Sarah Silverman, and it scored with audiences and critics.

The Rocky spinoff "Creed II," starring Michael B. Jordan and Sylvester Stallone, placed second with $35.3 million from the weekend and $55.8 million since Wednesday, far surpassing the first film's Thanksgiving debut in 2015. The sequel directed by Steven Caple Jr. has Jordan's Adonis Creed fighting the son of Ivan Drago.

Third place went to "Dr. Seuss' The Grinch," which earned $30.2 million in its second weekend, and just barely beat out the "Fantastic Beasts" sequel "Crimes of Grindelwald" ($29.7 million), also in its second weekend.

The poorly reviewed "Robin Hood," starring Taron Egerton, grossed only $9.1 million over the weekend and $14.2 million in its first five days in theaters.

It's the first time that the total domestic box office has surpassed $300 million over the five days counted around the Thanksgiving holiday.

Other news

■ Talk show host **Jerry Springer** is getting a new TV role as "Judge Jerry," where he'll hear testimony and render verdicts before a studio audience. NBC Universal Television Distribution announced the half-hour court program Monday that will debut in the fall of 2019. The 74-year-old TV host is best known for "The Jerry Springer Show," in which guests loudly, and at times violently, meted out their own brand of justice over 27 seasons. Springer began his career as a lawyer in Cincinnati.

■ Italian filmmaker **Bernardo Bertolucci**, who won Oscars with "The Last Emperor" and whose erotic drama "Last Tango in Paris" enthralled and shocked the world, died Monday. He was 77. Bertolucci's movies often explored the sexual relations among characters stuck in a psychological crisis, as in "Last Tango." The self-professed Marxist also did not shy away from politics and ideology, as in "The Conformist," which some critics consider Bertolucci's masterpiece. He was honored for lifetime achievement at the Cannes film festival in 2011.

■ **Ricky Jay**, a magician, historian of oddball entertainers and actor who appeared in "Boogie Nights" and other films, has died. He was 72. Jay appeared in several films and television series, including "Magnolia" and "Tomorrow Never Dies," and in HBO's "Deadwood."

■ **Nicolas Roeg**, a director of provocative and otherworldly films who gave Mick Jagger and David Bowie enduring screen roles, has died. He was 90. The British director of "Don't Look Now" and many other films died Nov. 23, his son, Nicolas Roeg Jr., told Britain's Press Association.

SHIFTING GEARS

2019 Honda Pilot Elite
PHOTOS COURTESY OF HONDA/TNS

2019 Honda Pilot Elite pushes the right buttons

BY ROBERT DUFFER
Chicago Tribune

The good news about the refreshed 2019 Honda Pilot Elite is the nine-speed transmission operates without a hitch. The bad news is the top trim level costs more than $48,000.

What's worse is that price is about average for a well-equipped three-row midsize SUV. A basic Acura MDX with the same powertrain costs less, but doesn't have all the dings, zings and things. Compared with the top two contenders in the class, Pilot Elite is about $4,000 more than the top Subaru Ascent and a couple of hundred dollars less than the top Volkswagen Atlas.

These are the two newest offerings for America's favorite family hauler, and they are arguably the best. The only knock against the Pilot has been fixed for the mid-cycle refresh, and it once again should be considered in the top three.

All three do the same things and serve the same needs so the differences come down to personality. It's what makes a Pilot a Honda and an Ascent a Subaru. Different personalities appeal to different people; that's why most people who read car reviews (bless you) mostly want validation of that most unquantifiable thing: a feel.

The feel of the Atlas is conservative but it offers handsome styling with a powerful powertrain and technology that is more layered than intuitive, with more options than you can count.

The feel of the Ascent is understated, with standard AWD safety and capability a priority over power, and with technology that is more compartmentalized than

streamlined. It's easier to understand but kind of all over the place. Yet it has one of the nicest interiors, which is unusual for Subaru.

Despite a revised fascia intended to be more aggressive, the Pilot blends into the midsize SUV space with bland styling and big overhangs. On old dirt roads strewn with rocks in the Colorado Rockies at 11,000 feet, the Pilot's torque vectoring AWD system was surprisingly capable. It provided the kind of confidence needed for modest

2019 Honda Pilot Elite

Vehicle type: Three-row midsize SUV
MSRP: $48,020
Price as tested: $48,555 (including freight and options)
Powertrain: 3.5-liter V-6 AWD
Transmission: Nine-speed automatic
Power/torque: 280 horsepower; 262 foot-pounds
EPA fuel economy rating: 19 mpg city/26 highway/22 combined
TNS

off-roading or short-cutting on questionable access roads.

On the inside it feels the roomiest. Yet the lighter weight Pilot doesn't drive like the largest; in AWD it gets 2 mpg better in the city, and 3 mpg better highway than the Atlas, which is a big deal. The Ascent is about the same as the Pilot, and they both come with three seats in the third row, whereas the Atlas has only two. All claim to have a towing capacity of 5,000 pounds.

A closer look at the specs reveals that feel is not the same as fact; Atlas has the most cargo and passenger room. But the Pilot feels roomier. Go figure.

Given that both the Ascent and the Pilot come standard with the suite of advanced driver assistance systems that include emergency braking and adaptive cruise control, the Subaru Ascent is the best value of the three, and also the pokiest.

The Pilot has solid acceleration and passing power from its 280-horsepower V-6 engine. Shifts are smooth and predictable from the nine-speed transmission, including start-up in second gear for a lurchless launch. The start/stop system has been revised to include fewer restarts when the a/c is on, though we didn't test that because, well, November. It does feel quicker to start-up off the brake pedal, however. I don't think it's enough to persuade start/stop haters, but it makes the tech more livable and less noticeable.

On the inside, the Elite trim doesn't have that same premium feel as the surprising Ascent. It has leather trimmed seats, heated leather-wrapped steering wheel and mid-row captain's chairs, but the control interface and dash and door panels feel like

massaged plastic, not unlike in the Atlas.

Could a $48,000 purchase come down to the all-important third row? Taking a page from the Odyssey minivan and the Acura MDX three-row crossover, the seat folding, shifting and configuring is about the easiest in the class without power buttons. Third-row seats are easy to collapse from the rear with pull straps that collapse the headrests; Ascent requires manual lowering of headrests to collapse the third row. Mid-row seats are as easy to move forward as the push of a button. Ascent uses a slider but claims to have a larger door opening; the Atlas uses a more traditional latch that requires a bit more strength than a 7- or 8-year-old. The Pilot is easier overall. Adding to the ease is a motion-activated liftgate new for 2019.

Up front the steering wheel controls are simplified but still busy; once you get the feel for how to navigate through the revised instrument cluster, you don't really need the 8-inch touch screen. That screen uses swipe and pinch functions and has a swipe right or left feature to access subsequent menu pages. The main menu icons are large and the system easy to use. When in navigation, for instance, there are tiny icons on the top bar to switch to the audio page. It's easier and safer to use the instrument cluster controls. And there is a volume knob. Voice recognition is very good.

The refreshed Pilot pushes all the right buttons to keep pace with the newcomers in a segment that is rarely exciting but gives owners the kind of versatility, practicality and sophistication they prefer. When it comes down to which one is best, it'll be the one that feels the best.

Stripes.
SERVICE DIRECTORY
The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Dental 902

Transportation 944

Attorneys 178

Transportation 944

Transportation 944

Round-the-world news for America's military.

OPINION

Putin, Poroshenko don't want all-out war

BY LEONID BERSHIDSKY
Bloomberg Opinion

Sunday's dramatic events in the Kerch Strait, where Russian troops seized three Ukrainian navy vessels, highlight the Kremlin's resolve to hold on to the spoils of its aggression against Ukraine and flout its international obligations. They also show the lengths Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko is willing to go to remain in power.

The clash had been brewing since April, a month before the opening of a new 12-mile bridge across the Kerch Strait between the Russian mainland and annexed Crimea. The $3.4 billion project was the Kremlin's way of demonstrating the permanence of the annexation. It also opened a supply route that doesn't go through Ukrainian territory.

The bridge was built without regard to Ukrainian shipping at two Azov Sea ports, Mariupol and Berdyansk; its central arch is just 33 meters tall, keeping out more than 100 ships that have regularly docked at the ports. They account for about 9 percent of Ukraine's grain exports.

Understandably, the bridge isn't popular in Ukraine and Moscow is paranoid about Ukrainian sabotage. The Russian coast guard has been holding up mainly Ukrainian merchant ships and conducting exhaustive checks, which Ukraine and the European Union have interpreted as harassment, even a partial blockade.

The checks are, indeed, illegal. In 2003, Russia and Ukraine agreed to the free movement of each other's ships through the Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov. Russia argues that the inspections are justified on security grounds and rarely exceed three hours — though some have lasted days.

Sunday's escalation came when Ukraine tried to move three navy vessels from Odessa on the Black Sea to Mariupol. The Russian authorities proved unwilling to let warships, even small ones, pass. Though Ukraine warned Russia that the ships were coming, the Russian coast guard rammed one of the vessels and seized all three, wounding six sailors, according to the Ukrainian navy. Russia also blocked the passage under the Kerch Strait bridge with a container ship and sent warplanes.

Ukraine's reaction was forceful. It called a United Nations Security Council meeting for Monday, demanding more sanctions against Russia. Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin warned that Russia could be planning "further acts of aggression." And Ukraine's Security and National Defense Council recommended martial law for 60 days — something Ukraine never did during the Crimea annexation and several big battles in the country's east. Poroshenko proposed 30 days, and the Ukrainian parliament will probably approve it.

Formally, there's a reason to introduce martial law now that didn't exist during the bloodiest fighting. Russia has denied involvement in those battles in Ukraine's east; as it did during the Crimea annexation before it admitted sending troops. Now, however, Russian forces have openly attacked Ukrainian ships in violation of a treaty. It's no stretch to interpret this as an act of war.

Russia, though, has been quick to point out that the escalation benefits Poroshenko domestically. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin called the Ukrainian warships' voyage a "provocation." "Apparently, against this background it's easier for Poroshenko to unfold his election campaign," Karasin said.

The presidential election is scheduled for March 31. It can't be held while the country's under martial law, but if it's introduced for 60 days only, the vote can take place as planned. Yuri Birukov, a Poroshenko aide, wrote on Facebook on Sunday that the administration doesn't intend to put off the election.

Poroshenko cannot run on economic achievement. Five years after its Revolution of Dignity, Ukraine is Europe's poorest country, with an economy stuck below the pre-revolutionary level and no breakthrough in sight while oligarchs and corrupt officials keep preying on it. Recent scandals (a top official fled across the border this month after evidence surfaced of his bribe-taking) aren't helping the president. So he's highlighting his patriotism instead and his success in ripping Ukraine from Russia's orbit. His campaign slogan is "Army, Language, Faith." That's a surprisingly hard-core nationalist agenda for a confectionery tycoon who was, until recently, involved heavily in business with Russia.

According to recent polls, the strategy isn't working. Poroshenko is behind the populist former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and comedian, actor and producer Volodymyr Zelensky. Taking a stand against Russia just before the election could bolster the commander in chief's chances. The timing of the naval raid and martial law plan is interesting.

However, Russian President Vladimir Putin, who's losing support at home because of unpopular moves such as raising the retirement age, isn't averse to an escalation either to bring back some of the patriotic spirit kindled by Crimea. Putin and Poroshenko can't disguise their mutual hatred when they're in the same room, but they're natural allies on weapon-rattling with no military or strategic purpose.

Neither is interested in all-out war, however. An "official" conflict involving Russia's regular military would mean a sharp rise in the death toll and that's a potent antidote to the rousing rhetoric. Both leaders will keep the confrontation simmering and the propaganda guns blazing, but they'll be careful not to set off anything like the Russo-Georgian war of 2008.

Accidents are possible, though, given the likely months of brinkmanship. So too are harsher Western sanctions against Russia, which refuses to give an inch in a situation that's as damaging to its prospects as it is to Ukraine's.

Leonid Bershidsky is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering European politics and business. He was the founding editor of the Russian business daily Vedomosti and founded the opinion website Slon.ru.

Veterans see vital, healing public lands in peril

BY SHAWN VANDIVER
Special to Stars and Stripes

Like so many of my brothers and sisters who served in our nation's armed forces, I see and feel freedom in our great outdoor spaces. From the beautiful Southern California coastline to our deserts, mountains and beyond, veterans from all walks of life are united by a deep love and appreciation for America's public lands, regardless of age, gender, branch of service or political affiliation.

As a veteran who served as a petty officer first class in the U.S. Navy, I proudly wore a uniform to defend our nation's founding principles, ideals including respect for our land, a love of our country and duty to family. I joined the Navy to fight for the best of America, and I believe deeply that our public lands and waters — and the commons they represent — are worth fighting for.

That is why I am obligated to stand up and speak out against the Trump administration's ongoing attacks on our freedom to enjoy our nation's public lands.

Since taking office, President Donald Trump has taken unprecedented action to undermine protections for public lands in California and across the country. Trump has severely minimized climate change as a national security threat despite military leadership's assessment, rolled back rules that prevent air pollution, and promoted oil and gas drilling with little regard to how it affects other public resources. Trump has also undermined protection of wildlife, excluded 2 million acres of public lands from our national monuments, and placed industry lobbyists and former executives in positions of overseeing the same polluting industries they came from.

For veterans, Trump's attacks on public lands have hit closest to home. That is because America's public lands have always been especially important to those who have served in the U.S. armed forces. Veterans share a deep connection with the outdoors — and we believe that protecting our national public lands is a patriotic duty.

Members of the military were the first protectors of our nation's public lands, and so much military history is now preserved and memorialized in hallowed public places. We protect both our heritage and legacy as a nation when we protect historic sites such as Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania, Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio and Cabrillo National Monument in California, which includes coastal artillery batteries built to protect the harbor of San Diego from enemy warships.

Furthermore, public lands often play a vital role in the emotional and spiritual recovery of veterans. Many of us — especially those deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq — paid a terrible price while serving overseas. Too many young men and women return suffering from post traumatic stress disorder, depression and other forms of trauma that can be debilitating.

Transitioning into civilian life also has untold difficulties. However, whether it's reconnecting with family and friends, hunting, fishing, hiking or simply finding peace and solitude, public lands provide veterans with important opportunities to manage trauma and challenges that they cannot find elsewhere. We owe maintaining these lands to all our returning servicemembers in order to help them recover.

As the Trump administration threatens to rob generations of Americans of our natural wonders and a clean environment, our elected leaders must stand against these attacks. California's Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris have both risen to defend our public lands, but amid all of the pressing issues they and their colleagues are contending with in Washington, they must not lose sight of the importance of defending the conservation values that our veterans have fought for.

For many generations, Americans have enjoyed our nation's majestic outdoors and benefited from policies that sustain our environment. Our parents and grandparents left us the outdoor heritage we too often take for granted today, and our veterans fought to protect our homeland. Let's ensure that our public lands are preserved for generations to come. Those who have served our nation deserve nothing less.

Shawn VanDiver, a Navy veteran from San Diego, is director of the Truman National Security Project, San Diego chapter.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Content Agency

LISA BENSON/Washington Post Writers Group

First in Line

LISA BENSON/Washington Post Writers Group

SHE SAYS FOR CHRISTMAS SHE WANTS TRUMP TO BE MORE PRESIDENTIAL AND STOP HURTING PEOPLE.

WHAT DO I SAY?

JUST TELL HER HO. HO. HO...

TALK TO SANTA CLAUS

JEFF DANZIGER/Washington Post News Service
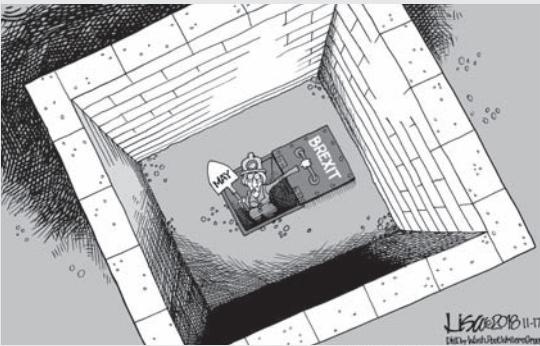
THE "CROWNED" PRINCE

TIM CAMPBELL/Washington Post News Service
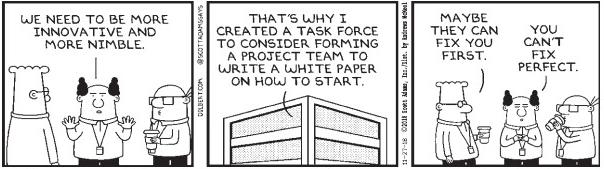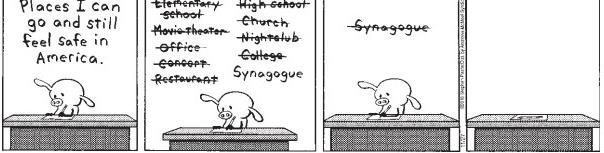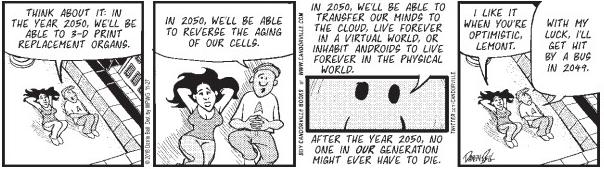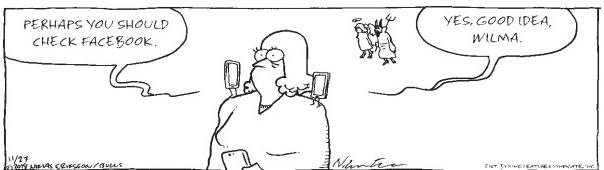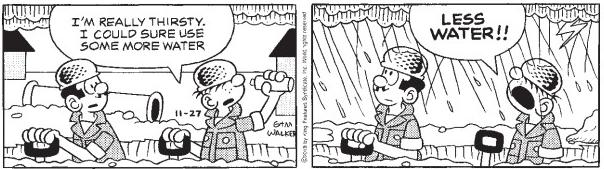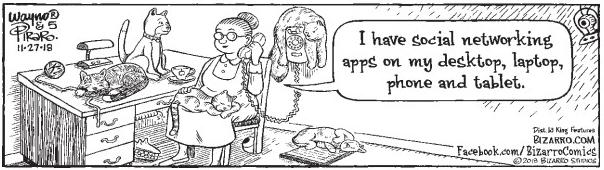
Eugene Sheffer Crossword
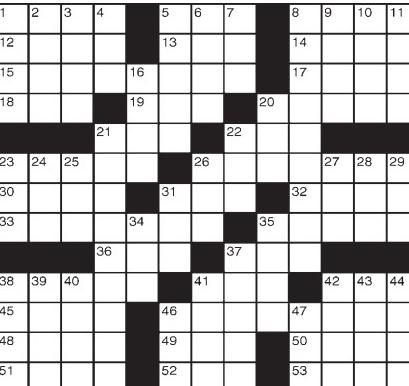
ACROSS
1 Helps
5 Fan's cry
8 Spiked club
12 Take a gander
13 Packed away
14 Port of Algeria
15 Jewelry container, often
17 Expansive
18 Enzyme suffix
19 Trendy
20 Feelings, informally
21 Frenzied
22 Service charge
23 Villain's look
26 Relaxing tub session
30 Slanted type (Abbr.)
31 Sock part
32 Celestial bear
33 Tart pie filling
35 Pursuing
36 Shaft of light
37 U.K. fliers
38 Audition CDs
41 Supporting
42 Rap sheet abbr.
45 Sandwich treat
46 Hodgepodge
48 Hockey venue
49 "— was saying ..."
50 Competent
51 &&&&
52 That girl
53 Salon jobs

DOWN
1 — mater
2 Debtors' notes
3 Prescribed amount
4 Enjoy Aspen
5 Fanatical
6 At the summit of
7 Whammy
8 Film fan
9 Saudi, e.g.
10 Job for Holmes
11 Tolkien creatures
16 Scorch
20 Animal doc
21 "The Producers" director
22 Nemesis
23 Knightly address
24 Ultimate degree
25 Vichy water
26 Mischief
27 Illustrations
28 Mao — -tung
29 Guffaw syllable
31 Attempt
34 Small batteries
35 Swiss river
37 — Hart ("Chicago" role)
38 TV explorer
39 Ms. Brockovich
40 Repair
41 Go angling
42 "Dear —"
43 Hardy cabbage
44 Mellows
46 Pas' mates
47 June honoree

Answer to Previous Puzzle

11-27　　　　CRYPTOQUIP

J U D P　　F D H H S D Q F　　B P　　P D J

Q D V B N P F　　J Q B H D　　R B F U I

P D J F Z L Z D Q　　L Q H B M S D F ,

B ' R　　F L I　　H U D I ' Q D　　V N F F B Z

M N S N P B F H F .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FOOTBALL TEAM WHOSE MEMBERS ALL FASHION TRADEMARK TWISTS IN THEIR HAIR: THE OAKLAND BRAIDERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals W

STARS AND STRIPES®
CLASSIFIED

Go to **stripes.com** to place your free ad. *Sell fast/ Buy fast*

When you see this camera icon go to stripes.com to view the uploaded photo.

EUROPE	MIDDLE EAST	PACIFIC
Advertising **Kristi Kimmel** kimmel,kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314,583,9013	**Kristi Kimmel** kimmel,kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314,583,9013	**Ichiro Katayanagi** CustomerHelp@stripes.com +81(3) 6385,3267 DSN 315,229,3267
Circulation **Van Rowell** rowell,van@stripes.com +49(0)631,3615,9111 DSN 314,583,9111	**Robert Reismann** reismann,robert@stripes.com +49(0)631,3615,9150 DSN 314,583,9150	**Mari Matsumoto** SSPcirculation@stripes.com +81(3) 6385,3171 DSN 315,229,3171
Reader Letters letters@stripes.com	letters@stripes.com	letters@stripes.com

Classifieds**EUROPE**

For information on Commercial Rates: **CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012**

Announcements   **040**

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classifieds advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

■ Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.

■ People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive   **140**

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Autos for Sale
· Germany   **142**

Auto - Quality Pre-owned
US SPEC Vehicles
www.vilseckautosales.com
Free Europe-wide delivery

Travel   **1000**

Winter in Garmisch!
Hotel Forsthaus Oberau 8 km
N of Garmisch Hot tub/sauna
39eur PP, DBL occp, free brkfst,
dogs welcome. 08824-9120
www.forsthaus-oberau.de

Read
STARS AND STRIPES
online at
www.stripes.com

Free Classifieds!

Visit **Stripes.com**
for details.

STARS AND STRIPES

Want a better picture?

You'll get one – just by reading **Stars and Stripes** military news coverage.
In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES®

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.
Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Mobile • Online • Print

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.

myafn.net

Auto racing

Abu Dhabi GP
Formula One
Sunday
At Yas Marina Circuit
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Lap length: 3.451 miles
1. Lewis Hamilton, Britain, Mercedes GP, 55 laps, 1:39:40.382.
2. Sebastian Vettel, Germany, Ferrari, 55 laps, +2.581.
3. Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull, 55 laps, +12.706.
4. Daniel Ricciardo, Australia, Red Bull, 55 laps, +15.379.
5. Valtteri Bottas, Finland, Mercedes GP, 55 laps, +47.957.
6. Carlos Sainz, Spain, Renault, 55 laps, +1:12.548.
7. Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Sauber-Ferrari, 55 laps, +1:30.789.
8. Sergio Perez, Mexico, Force India, 55 laps, +1:31.275.
9. Romain Grosjean, France, Haas F1, 54 laps, +1 lap.
10. Kevin Magnussen, Denmark, Haas F1, 54 laps, +1 lap.
11. Fernando Alonso, Spain, McLaren, 54 laps, +1 lap.
12. Brendon Hartley, New Zealand, Scuderia Toro Rosso, 54 laps, +1 lap.
13. Lance Stroll, Canada, Williams, 54 laps, +1 lap.
14. Stoffel Vandoorne, Belgium, McLaren, 54 laps, +1 lap.
15. Sergey Sirotkin, Russia, Williams, 54 laps, +1 lap.
NR. Pierre Gasly, France, Scuderia Toro Rosso, 46 laps, DNF.
NR. Esteban Ocon, France, Force India, 44 laps, DNF.
NR. Marcus Ericsson, Sweden, Sauber-Ferrari, 24 laps, DNF.
NR. Kimi Raikkonen, Finland, Ferrari, 6 laps, DNF.
NR. Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, Renault, 0 laps, DNF.

Driver Standings
1. Lewis Hamilton, 408
2. Sebastian Vettel, 320
3. Kimi Raikkonen, 251
4. Max Verstappen, 249
5. Valtteri Bottas, 247
6. Daniel Ricciardo, 170
7. Nico Hulkenberg, 69
8. Sergio Perez, 62
9. Kevin Magnussen, 56
10. Fernando Alonso, 50
11. Esteban Ocon, 49
12. Carlos Sainz, 45
13. Charles Leclerc, 39
14. Romain Grosjean, 37
15. Pierre Gasly, 29
16. Stoffel Vandoorne, 12
17. Marcus Ericsson, 9
18. Lance Stroll, 6
19. Brendon Hartley, 4
20. Sergey Sirotkin, 1

Manufacturers Standings
1. Mercedes GP, 655
2. Ferrari, 571
3. Red Bull Racing Tag Heuer, 419
4. Renault, 122
5. Haas Ferrari, 90
6. McLaren Renault, 62
7. Force India Mercedes, 52
8. Sauber Ferrari, 48
9. Scuderia Toro Rosso Honda, 33
10. Williams Mercedes, 7

Deals

Sunday's transactions
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM DUCKS — Recalled D Andrej Sustr and Andy Welinski from San Diego (AHL). Assigned D Josh Mahura to San Diego and LW Max Comtois to Drummondville (QMJHL).
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled D Jake Bean and F Valentin Zykov from Charlotte (AHL).
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Acquired C Dylan Strome and F Brendan Perlini from Arizona for C Nick Schmaltz.
LOS ANGELES KINGS — Recalled F Michael Amadio from Ontario (AHL). Placed F Carl Hagelin on injured reserve.
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Recalled F Rocco Grimaldi from Milwaukee (AHL). Placed F Kyle Turris on injured reserve.
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Terminated D Steven Santini's two-year entry contract, returning loan to Binghamton (AHL).
NEW YORK RANGERS — Recalled F Tim Gettinger from Hartford (AHL). Placed
COLLEGE
ILLINOIS — Signed football coach Lovie Smith to a two-year contract extension through the 2023 season.
NORTH CAROLINA — Fired football coach Larry Fedora.
TEXAS TECH — Fired football coach Kliff Kingsbury.

College basketball

Men's AP Top 25 fared
Sunday
1. Duke (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana, Tuesday.
2. Kansas (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. Stanford, Saturday, Dec. 1.
3. Gonzaga (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. North Dakota State, Monday.
4. Virginia (6-0) did not play. Next: at Maryland, Wednesday.
5. Tennessee (4-1) did not play. Next: vs. Eastern Kentucky, Wednesday.
6. Nevada (6-0) did not play. Next: at Loyola of Chicago, Tuesday.
7. North Carolina (6-1) did not play. Next: at No. 9 Michigan, Wednesday.
8. Auburn (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. Saint Peter's, Wednesday.
9. Michigan (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 7 North Carolina, Wednesday.
10. Kentucky (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. Monmouth, Wednesday.
11. Michigan State (5-1) did not play. Next: at Louisville, Tuesday.
12. Kansas State (6-0) did not play. Next: at Marquette, Saturday.
13. Virginia Tech (5-0) did not play. Next: at Penn State, Tuesday.
14. Florida State (5-1) lost to Villanova 66-60. Next: vs. No. 24 Purdue, Wednesday.
15. Mississippi State (4-1) did not play. Next: vs. Alcorn State, Monday.
16. Clemson (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. Nebraska, Monday.
17. UCLA (4-2) did not play. Next: vs. Hawaii, Wednesday.
18. TCU (3-1) did not play. Next: vs. Eastern Michigan, Wednesday.
19. LSU (5-2) lost to Oklahoma State 90-77. Next: vs. Grambling State, Saturday.
20. Iowa (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. Pittsburgh, Tuesday.
21. Oregon (4-1) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Southern, Monday.
22. Buffalo (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. Milwaukee, Friday.
23. Ohio State (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. Syracuse, Wednesday.
24. Purdue (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 14 Florida State, Wednesday.
25. Wisconsin (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. N.C State, Tuesday.

Sunday's men's scores
EAST
Brown 84, Bryant 60
Bucknell 69, Vermont 61
CCSU 88, Pine Manor 59
Columbia 85, St. Joseph's (BKN) 38
Duquesne 83, Mass.-Lowell 71
Fairfield 86, Denver 85
Fordham 77, Alabama A&M 46
Lafayette 80, Fairleigh Dickinson 76
Quinnipiac 58, Maine 50
Seton Hall 83, Miami 81
Towson 85, Loyola (Md.) 69
SOUTH
Arkansas St. 77, Gardner-Webb 69
Coll. of Charleston 78, Memphis 75
FAU 85, Florida Gulf Coast 68
Furman 65, UNC-Asheville 51
Hampton 86, Richmond 66
Liberty 82, Savannah St. 56
Lipscomb 87, Morehead St. 55
Morgan St. 78, Mount St. Mary's 68
Oklahoma St. 90, LSU 77
Samford 77, SC State 66
UAB 68, Canisius 58
UNC-Wilmington 82, E. Illinois 65
Villanova 66, Florida St. 60
William Carey 78, Southern Miss. 72
MIDWEST
Bowling Green 81, Drexel 71
Cent. Michigan 103, Siena Heights 75
Illinois 86, MVSU 67
Indiana-East 77, Warner 73
N. Illinois 92, Oakland 72
Purdue Fort Wayne 82, Cleveland St. 79
SIU-Edwardsville 80, Incarnate Word 68
Walsh 102, Thiel 58
Wichita St. 90, Rice 61
SOUTHWEST
Oral Roberts 78, James Madison 69, OT
Stephen F. Austin 73, St. Edwards 60
FAR WEST
Fresno St. 79, Hawaii 64
Grand Canyon 82, La Salle 70
Northwestern 79, Utah 57
Oregon St. 75, Long Beach St. 72
Seattle 70, Longwood 50
Southern Cal 90, CS Bakersfield 75

Women's Top 25 fared
Sunday
1. Notre Dame (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 12 Iowa, Thursday.
2. UConn (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 16 DePaul, Wednesday.
3. Oregon (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. Long Beach State, Sunday, Dec. 2.
4. Baylor (5-0) did not play. Next: at

13 South Carolina, Sunday, Dec. 1.
5. Louisville (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. Miami (Ohio), Monday.
6. Mississippi State (6-0) did not play. Next: at Little Rock, Wednesday.
7. Maryland (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Thursday.
8. Stanford (6-0) beat Hawaii 81-59. Next: at Gonzaga, Sunday.
9. Oregon State (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. La Salle, Saturday.
10. Texas (6-0) beat Fordham 72-54. Next: vs. UTSA, Wednesday.
11. Tennessee (5-0) did not play. Next: at Oklahoma State, Sunday, Dec. 2.
12. Iowa (5-1) did not play. Next: at No. 1 Notre Dame, Thursday.
13. South Carolina (3-3) did not play. Next: vs. Duke, Wednesday.
14. Syracuse (6-1) did not play. Next: at No. 23 Minnesota, Thursday.
15. N.C. State (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. Michigan, Thursday.
16. DePaul (4-5) did not play. Next: vs. New Hampshire, Friday.
17. South Florida (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. New Hampshire, Friday.
18. California (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. Cal State Northridge, Sunday, Dec. 2.
19. Arizona State (3-2) did not play. Next: vs. Louisiana Tech, Saturday.
20. Texas A&M (4-0) did not play. Next: vs. Lamar, Thursday.
21. Missouri (5-1) beat Duke 62-54. Next: at No. 25 West Virginia, Sunday.
22. Marquette (4-1) did not play. Next: vs. Milwaukee, Wednesday.
23. Minnesota (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 14 Syracuse, Thursday.
24. Miami (6-1) beat Temple 73-61. Next: at Purdue, Thursday.
25. West Virginia (4-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 21 Missouri, Sunday, Dec. 2.

Sunday's women's scores
EAST
Binghamton 69, Army 47
Boston College 112, Rider 61
Bucknell 91, Brown 78
Charlotte 62, Lehigh 60
Colgate 86, Columbia 71
Duquesne 93, St. Francis (Pa.) 73
Florida Gulf Coast 90, American U. 71
Hofstra 53, Stetson 50
Holy Cross 56, Albany (NY) 50
Howard 77, Fairleigh Dickinson 58
Maine 47, Penn 46
Monmouth (NJ) 55, Sacred Heart 50
Navy 72, NC A&T 49
New Hampshire 79, Bryant 74
Pittsburgh 76, Tennessee St. 56
Quinnipiac 69, Ball St. 66
SE Missouri 68, NJIT 58
Saint Joseph's 49, Loyola (Md.) 46
Seton Hall 100, St. Francis Brooklyn 77
Stony Brook 81, Penn St. 70
Texas 72, Fordham 54
UMass 59, Fairfield 46
SOUTH
Appalachian St. 74, Marshall 52
Auburn 71, Louisiana-Lafayette 59
Campbell 95, FIU 54
Cent. Michigan 73, Chattanooga 56
Coastal Carolina 90, Memphis 71
Georgia Southern 77, Bethune-Cookman 76
Jacksonville 66, Charleston Southern 58
James Madison 56, Winthrop 39
LSU 60, UAB 45
Louisiana-Monroe 57, New Orleans 44
Mercer 76, Bowling Green 63
Miami 73, Temple 61
Norfolk St. 66, Liberty 53
North Alabama 89, W. Carolina 66
Old Dominion 80, Tennessee Tech 73
Saint Louis 67, Virginia 65
UCF 71, Villanova 56
UNC-Asheville 60, Wofford 46
UNC-Greensboro 72, UNC-Pembroke 32
Vanderbilt 78, Presbyterian 43
Virginia Tech 85, Richmond 57
MIDWEST
Arkansas 69, Wisconsin 68
Butler 58, Illinois 54
IUPUI 63, VCU 61
Indiana 91, N. Illinois 73
Kansas 75, Iona 44
Missouri 62, Duke 54
Nebraska 77, Radford 39
Nebraska-Omaha 57, Florida A&M 50
Northwestern 90, UT Martin 64
Oakland 71, Canisius 60
Rio Grande 74, St. Thomas (TX) 43
Wright St. 76, Marist 60
SOUTHWEST
Rice 93, Minnesota St. 59
UTSA 66, Weber St. 59
FAR WEST
Colorado 78, Utah St. 68
Colorado St. 56, Cornell 53
Michigan 80, Washington 73
Middle Tennessee 66, UNLV 62
Southern Cal 72, Nevada 51
Stanford 81, Hawaii 59
Texas-Arlington 80, San Francisco 73
UC Santa Barbara 62, Dartmouth 56

College football

AP Top 25 poll
The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 24 total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Alabama (61)	12-0	1525	1
2. Clemson	12-0	1458	2
3. Notre Dame	12-0	1409	3
4. Georgia	11-1	1336	5
5. Oklahoma	11-1	1266	6
6. Ohio St.	11-1	1229	10
7. UCF	11-0	1146	8
8. Michigan	10-2	1058	4
9. Texas	9-3	959	11
10. Washington	9-3	897	16
11. Florida	9-3	876	13
12. Washington St.	10-2	818	7
13. LSU	9-3	818	9
14. Penn St.	9-3	751	15
15. West Virginia	8-3	672	12
16. Kentucky	9-3	602	17
17. Utah	9-3	536	18
18. Syracuse	9-3	475	19
19. Boise St.	10-2	409	21
20. Mississippi St.	8-4	324	22
21. Northwestern	8-4	322	20
22. Texas A&M	8-4	283	NR
23. Army	9-2	169	23
24. Iowa St.	7-4	116	25
25. Fresno St.	10-2	102	NR

Others receiving votes: Utah St. 92, Missouri 88, N.C State 39, Cincinnati 33, Stanford 10, Iowa 4, Appalachian St. 1, Buffalo 1, Oregon 1.

Coaches Top 25 poll
The Amway Top 25 football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 24, total points based on 25 points for first place through one point for 25th, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Alabama (63)	12-0	1599	1
2. Clemson (1)	12-0	1536	2
3. Notre Dame	12-0	1469	3
4. Georgia	11-1	1395	5
5. Oklahoma	11-1	1324	6
6. Ohio State	11-1	1292	10
7. Central Florida	11-0	1200	9
8. Michigan	10-2	1041	4
9. Texas	9-3	939	11
10. Florida	9-3	937	13
11. Washington	9-3	921	16
12. Penn State	9-3	889	14
13. Washington State	10-2	829	7
14. LSU	9-3	821	8
15. Kentucky	9-3	634	18
16. West Virginia	8-3	621	12
17. Utah	9-3	610	17
18. Syracuse	9-3	499	19
19. Mississippi State	8-4	460	20
20. Boise State	10-2	375	22
21. Northwestern	8-4	363	21
22. Texas A&M	8-4	295	NR
23. Fresno State	10-2	157	23
24. Utah State	10-2	109	24
25. Army	9-2	119	24

Others receiving votes: Iowa State 103; Cincinnati 82; North Carolina State 55; Missouri 31; Iowa 30; Appalachian State 14; Pittsburgh 13; Memphis 6; Alabama at Birmingham 4; Buffalo 3; Oregon 3; Stanford 3; California 1; Georgia Southern 1; Wisconsin 1.

Tennis

Davis Cup
WORLD GROUP
Final
Croatia 3, France 1
At Stade Pierre Mauroy
Lille, France
Surface: Clay-indoor
Singles
Borna Coric, Croatia, def. Jeremy Chardy, France, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4.
Marin Cilic, Croatia, def. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, France, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.
Doubles
Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut, France, vs. Ivan Dodig and Mate Pavic, Croatia, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (3).
Reverse Singles
Marin Cilic, Croatia, def. Lucas Pouille, France, 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-3.

Boxing

Fight schedule
Dec. 1
At Washington, Dusty Harrison vs. James Winchester, 10, super welterweights.
At Quebec City, Adonis Stevenson vs. Oleksandr Gvozdyk, 12, for Stevenson's WBC World light heavyweight title; Sebastien Bouchard vs. Ali Funeka, 10, welterweights; Mikael Zewski vs. Aaron Herrera, 10, for Zewski's WBC International welterweight title; Oscar Rivas vs. Fabio Maldonado, 10, for Rivas' NABF heavyweight title; Shakeel Phinn vs. Dario Bredican, 10, for the vacant IBF International super middleweight title.
At Staples Center, Los Angeles, Deontay Wilder vs. Tyson Fury, 12, for Wilder's WBC heavyweight title; Jarrett Hurd vs. Jason Welborn, 12, for Hurd's WBA Super world-IBF-IBO super welterweight titles; Luis Ortiz vs. Travis Kauffman, 10, heavyweights; Joe Joyce vs. Joe Hanks, 10, heavyweights; Mark Barriga vs. Carlos Licona, 12, for the vacant IBF strawweight title; Chris Arreola vs. Maurenzo Smith, 10, heavyweights.

Pro soccer

MLS playoffs
Conference Semifinals
Home-and-home
First leg
Eastern Conference
Columbus 1, New York 0
Atlanta 1, New York City FC 0
Western Conference
Portland 2, Seattle 1
Sporting KC 1, Real Salt Lake 1
Second leg
Eastern Conference
Atlanta 3, New York City FC 1, Atlanta advances on 4-1 aggregate
New York 3, Columbus 0, New York advances on 3-1 aggregate
Western Conference
Seattle 3, Portland 2, 4-4 aggregate; Portland advanced on 4-2 penalty kicks
Sporting KC 4, Real Salt Lake 2, Sporting KC advances on 5-3 aggregate
Conference Championships
Home-and-home
Eastern Conference
First leg
Sunday: Atlanta 3, New York 0
Second leg
Thursday: Atlanta at New York
Western Conference
First leg
Sunday: Sporting KC 0, Portland 0
Second leg
Thursday: Portland at Sporting Kansas City
MLS Cup
Saturday, Dec. 8
Atlanta-New York winner at Kansas City-Portland winner at Atlanta-New York winner,

Sunday
Sportins KC 0, Timbers 0
| Kansas City | 0 | 0—0 |
| Portland | 0 | 0—0 |
Goalies—KC, Tim Melia, Adrian Zendejas; Portland, Jeff Attinella, Steve Clark.
45th; Besler, 66th; Salloi, 89th. Portland, Guzman, 36th.

Atlanta United 3, Red Bulls 0
| New York | 0 | 0—0 |
| Atlanta | 1 | 2—3 |
First half—1, Atlanta, Martinez, 34 (Larentowicz), 32nd minute.
Second half—2, Atlanta, Escobar, 2 (Gressel), 71st; 3, Atlanta, Villalba, 7 (Escobar), 90th.
Goalies—New York, Luis Robles, Ryan Meara; Atlanta, Brad Guzan, Alec Kann.
Yellow Cards—Atlanta, Gonzalez Pirez, 62nd.

Golf

World Cup of Golf
Sunday
At The Metropolitan GC
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: $7 million
Yardage: 7,308; Par 72
Final
Pieters/Detry, $1,120,000	63-71-63-68—265
Ancer/Diaz, $478,750	67-70-65-66—268
Leishman/Smith, $478,750	62-76-65-65—268
Hadwin/Taylor, $181,000	68-73-64-66—271
Olesen/Kjeldsen, $181,000	63-77-66-65—271
B.An/S.Kim, KOR, $126,250	62-72-68-70—272
Pavan/Paratore, $126,250	65-71-66-70—272
Hatton/Poulter, $92,500	62-74-67-70—273
Bjork/Langercrim, $92,500	64-71-70-68—273
A.Lahiri/ G.Bhullar, $51,167	64-72-70-70—276
S.Lowry/P.Dunne, $51,167	64-76-65-71—276
Levy/Lorenzo-Vera, $51,167	66-73-68-69—276
H.Li/A.Wu, CHN, $41,000	66-76-68-67—277
Aphbrrett/Mesawat, $37,000	67-78-67-66—278
Knox/M.Laird, SCO, $37,000	67-71-67-73—278
Manley/Dredge, $34,500	70-73-66-70—279
Stanley/Kuchar, $34,500	66-79-66-68—279
Fox /Brown, NZL, $32,000	65-76-69-70—280
Frittelli/van Rooyen, $32,000	66-76-66-72—280
Korhonen/Ilonen, $32,000	66-75-68-71—280
Otaegui/Campillo, $30,000	68-74-64-75—281
Green/Leong, MAS, $29,000	63-73-72-74—282
Kodaira/Tanihara, $28,000	66-79-70-72—287
Vegas/Naffah, VEN, $26,500	62-82-67-75—289
Luiten/Huizing, $26,500	69-82-68-70—289
Kaymer/Kieffer, $25,000	68-81-68-73—290
Vincent/F.-Smith, $24,000	72-84-66-73—295
Karmis/Tranacher, $23,000	66-87-68-86—307

Hong Kong Open
Sunday
Hong Kong Golf Club
Yardage: 6,700; Par: 70
Final
Aaron Rai, England	65-61-68-69—263
M. Fitzpatrick, England	70-62-68-64—264
Victor Perez, France	71-65-66-67—269
Jason Scrivener, Australia	69-69-67-68—269
David Drysdale, Scotland	69-69-67-66—270
Rafa Cabrera Bello, Spain	72-69-67-63—271
Sergio Garcia, Spain	70-69-63-69—271
Shubhankar Sharma, India	69-68-67-67—271
Scott Hend, Australia	69-68-66-69—272
Holmberg, Australia	69-67-69-67—272
Kim Koivu, Finland	69-67-69-67—272
Matthias Schwab, Scotland	69-69-66-68—272
Micah Lauren Shin, U.S.	66-69-72-67—274
Ashley Chesters, England	68-67-71-67—273
Nicolas Colsaerts, Belgium	68-68-72-65—273
Tommy Fleetwood, England	69-66-66-73—273
Justin Harding, South Africa	71-69-66-67—273
Thongchai Jaidee, Thailand	68-68-66-71—273
Also	
Berry Henson, United States	69-70-67-74—275
Sihwan Kim, United States	69-69-66-71—275
Casey O'Toole, U.S.	69-66-72-68—275
Kurt Kitayama, U.S.	72-67-69-70—278
David Lipsky, United States	69-68-71-72—280
Patrick Reed, United States	75-65-69-69—278
Jarrod Lyle, United States	73-67-70-68—278
John Catlin, United States	70-69-71-70—280

AP sportlight
Nov. 27
1947 — Howie Dallmar of the Philadelphia Warriors sets an NBA record for the most field goal attempts with none made, 15, in an 83-59 loss to the New York Knicks.
1949 — Steve Van Buren of the Philadelphia Eagles becomes the second NFL player, the first in 16 years, to rush over 200 yards with a 205-yard performance in a 34-17 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers.
1960 — Detroit's Gordie Howe scores his 1,000th point with an assist as the Red Wings beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 2-0. It's Howe's 938th NHL game.
1966 — The Washington Redskins set an NFL regular-season record for most points scored, in a 72-41 victory over the New York Giants. Both teams also set records with 16 TDs and 113 total points.
1994 — Joe Montana of the Kansas City Chiefs becomes the third quarterback to surpass 40,000 passing yards in a 10-9 loss at Seattle.
2016 — Argentina wins its first Davis Cup title when Federico Delbonis sweeps past Ivo Karlovic in straight sets to complete a stunning 3-2 comeback win over Croatia. Delbonis wins the deciding match 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	24	17	6	1	35	92	68
Buffalo	24	16	6	2	34	76	66
Toronto	24	16	8	0	32	84	62
Boston	23	13	6	4	30	65	55
Montreal	24	11	8	5	27	76	81
Detroit	23	10	10	3	23	63	73
Ottawa	23	9	11	3	21	83	100
Florida	21	8	9	4	20	69	78

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	23	13	7	3	29	80	73
Columbus	23	13	8	2	28	77	73
N.Y. Islanders	22	12	8	2	26	71	64
N.Y. Rangers	24	12	10	2	26	71	74
Carolina	23	11	9	3	25	63	66
Pittsburgh	22	9	8	5	23	74	71
Philadelphia	22	10	10	2	22	69	82
New Jersey	22	9	10	3	21	65	72

Western Conference

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	24	17	6	1	35	81	58
Minnesota	23	14	7	2	30	75	63
Colorado	23	13	6	4	30	86	65
Winnipeg	23	13	7	2	28	74	62
Dallas	24	12	10	2	26	68	66
Chicago	24	9	11	5	23	65	82
St. Louis	22	8	11	3	19	67	73

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	24	14	9	1	29	81	69
San Jose	24	12	8	4	28	75	74
Vegas	25	12	12	1	25	69	70
Anaheim	25	10	10	5	25	56	74
Vancouver	26	11	13	2	24	77	94
Edmonton	23	10	11	2	22	64	76
Arizona	22	10	11	2	20	53	62
Los Angeles	23	8	14	1	17	51	74

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's games
Washington 4, N.Y. Rangers 3
Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 2
Winnipeg 8, St. Louis 4
Buffalo 3, Detroit 2, SO
Chicago 5, Florida 4, OT
Boston 3, Montreal 2
Toronto 6, Philadelphia 1
N.Y. Islanders 4, Carolina 1
Colorado 3, Dallas 2
Vegas 6, San Jose 0
Vancouver 4, Los Angeles 2
Sunday's games
Calgary 6, Arizona 1
Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 2
Nashville 5, Anaheim 2
Los Angeles 5, Edmonton 2
Monday's games
Washington at N.Y. Islanders
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers
New Jersey at Florida
Boston at Toronto
Columbus at Detroit
Tuesday's games
San Jose at Buffalo
Ottawa at Philadelphia
Anaheim at Tampa Bay
Carolina at Montreal
Pittsburgh at Winnipeg
Vegas at Chicago
Colorado at Nashville
Arizona at Minnesota
Dallas at Edmonton
Los Angeles at Vancouver
Wednesday's games
St. Louis at Detroit
Anaheim at Florida
San Jose at Toronto
Dallas at Calgary
Pittsburgh at Colorado

Calendar

Jan. 1 — Winter Classic, Boston at Chicago, Notre Dame Stadium, South Bend, Ind.
Jan. 25 — All-Star Skills Competition, San Jose, Calif.
Jan. 26 — All-Star Game, San Jose, Calif.
Feb. 23 — Stadium Series, Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, Lincoln Financial Field.

Sunday

Predators 5, Ducks 2

Anaheim	0	2	0—2
Nashville	1	2	2—5

First Period—1, Nashville, Watson 2 (Sissons, Bonino), 11:04.
Second Period—2, Anaheim, Henrique 6 (Montour, Rakell), 2:38 (pp). 3, Nashville, Bonino 4 (Sissons), 5:38. 4, Nashville, Watson 3 (Fiala, Josi), 18:36 (pp). 5, Anaheim, Kase 3 (Pettersson), 19:52.
Third Period—6, Nashville, Smith 6 (Forsberg, Ekholm), 2:52 (pp). 7, Nashville, Watson 4 (Josi, Ellis), 18:54.
Shots on Goal—Anaheim 9-4-6—19. Nashville 13-15-5—33.
Power-play opportunities—Anaheim 1 of 5; Nashville 2 of 5.
Goalies—Anaheim, Gibson 8-8-4 (32 shots-28 saves). Nashville, Rinne 10-2-1 (19-17).
A—17,167 (17,113). **T**—2:43.

Lightning 5, Devils 2

New Jersey	1	0	1—2
Tampa Bay	4	1	0—5

First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Killorn 3 (Joseph), 3:19. 2, Tampa Bay, Point 6 (Hedman, Kucherov), 7:21 (pp). 3, Tampa Bay, Johnson 10 (Point, Kucherov), 9:15. 4, New Jersey, Noesen 2 (Seney), 9:39. 5, Tampa Bay, Paquette 4 (Girardi, Callahan), 11:25.
Second Period—6, Tampa Bay, Point 17, 8:30.
Third Period—7, New Jersey, Bratt 1, 5:21.
Shots on Goal—New Jersey 10-11-14—35. Tampa Bay 11-16-9—36.
Power-play opportunities—New Jersey 0 of 2; Tampa Bay 1 of 3.
Goalies—New Jersey, Schneider 0-5-0 (35 shots-30 saves). Tampa Bay, Domingue 8-3-0 (35-33).
A—19,092 (19,092). **T**—2:33.

Flames 6, Coyotes 1

Calgary	2	2	2—6
Arizona	0	0	1—1

First Period—1, Calgary, Monahan 13 (Giordano, Gaudreau), 7:27. 2, Calgary, Hanifin 1, 16:22 (sh).
Second Period—3, Calgary, Hanifin 2 (Neal, Ryan), 8:34 (pp). 4, Calgary, Jankowski 3 (Dube, Brodie), 11:25.
Third Period—5, Calgary, Brodie 2 (Backlund), 3:39 (sh). 6, Calgary, Jankowski 4, 4:03 (sh). 7, Arizona, Keller 6, 13:44.
Shots on Goal—Calgary 10-12-5—27. Arizona 8-10-11—29.
Power-play opportunities—Calgary 1 of 5; Arizona 0 of 4.
Goalies—Calgary, Smith 6-7-1 (29 shots-28 saves). Arizona, Hill 0-0-0 (1-1), Raanta 5-6-0 (26-20).
A—12,821 (17,125). **T**—2:29.

Kings 5, Oilers 2

Edmonton	1	1	0—2
Los Angeles	1	1	3—5

First Period—1, Los Angeles, Brown 4 (Forbort, Kopitar), 7:56. 2, Edmonton, Chiasson 9 (McDavid, Klefbom), 13:19 (pp).
Second Period—3, Edmonton, Chiasson 10 (Klefbom, Nugent-Hopkins), 2:16. 4, Los Angeles, Brown 5 (Kopitar), 4:13 (pp).
Third Period—5, Los Angeles, Kopitar 7 (Thompson, Forbort), 4:27. 6, Los Angeles, Brown 6 (Doughty, Carter), 19:06 (pp). 7, Los Angeles, Luff 4, 19:33.
Shots on Goal—Edmonton 12-15-7—34. Los Angeles 14-10-8—32.
Power-play opportunities—Edmonton 1 of 3; Los Angeles 2 of 5.
Goalies—Edmonton, Talbot 5-9-1 (30 shots-27 saves). Los Angeles, Petersen 3-3-0 (34-32).
A—17,581 (18,230). **T**—2:38.

MARK HUMPHREY/AP
Predators left wing Austin Watson, left, celebrates with Ryan Johansen as Kevin Fiala skates in, after scoring during the second period against the Ducks on Sunday.

Roundup

Watson's hat trick leads Predators over Ducks

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Austin Watson had a difficult time remembering the last time he scored a hat trick — at any level.

"American Hockey League, maybe?" Watson said. "A couple of years now."

Watson, known as a grinder who is strong on the penalty kill, recorded his first career NHL hat trick Sunday night as Nashville defeated the Anaheim Ducks 5-2.

Watson, a 26-year-old right wing, became the fourth Predators player to record a hat trick this season, a franchise record.

"It's always nice to score goals and contribute," said Watson, who entered the game with just one goal. "As hockey players, that's what we like to do."

Watson usually spends his time on the third and fourth lines, but he moved up to the first and second lines against Anaheim due to an undisclosed injury to center Kyle Turris.

He scored the game's first goal in the opening period, added his first career power-play goal in the second period and his empty netter with 1:06 left prompted the sellout crowd of 17,167 at Bridgestone Arena to shower the ice with caps.

"To get an opportunity to play with [Ryan Johansen] and [Filip Forsberg], two really gifted hockey players, and then I was out there with [Colton Sissons] and [Nick Bonino], we had some good success," Watson said. "It was a fun night."

Watson returned from an 18-game suspension for domestic violence two weeks ago.

"I think it was just a matter of getting back on the ice and getting my timing back," Predators coach Peter Laviolette said. "He was in shape when he started, but there's something about the game and the way it moves and getting your game-timing down from moving the puck, reading the plays, reading the situations. So we've been giving him more opportunity with regard to ice time, penalty kill."

Nick Bonino and Craig Smith also scored for the Predators.

Nashville, which began Sunday tied for the NHL's best record, won its sixth straight home game.

Flames 6, Coyotes 1: Noah Hanifin and Mark Jankowski each scored twice, former Coyotes goalie Mike Smith just missed his 38th career shutout and visiting Calgary routed Arizona.

Smith made 28 saves in his first win since Nov. 1. Calgary led 6-0 before Clayton Keller scored for Arizona with 6:16 remaining.

Three of the Flames' goals were short-handed. The Coyotes have allowed five shorted-handed goals in their past two games.

Sean Monahan and T.J. Brodie also scored for Calgary. The Flames rebounded from a loss at Las Vegas on Friday night and have won four of five.

Calgary coach Bill Peters wasn't around to watch about 10 minutes of the game after he was hit in the left jaw with a puck while standing in his customary spot in the bench area early in the second period. He needed eight stitches and returned late in the period.

Lightning 5, Devils 2: Brayden Point had two goals and an assist to lead host Tampa Bay.

Tyler Johnson, Cedric Paquette and Alex Killorn also scored for the Lightning, who have won three straight games and five of six. Louis Domingue made 33 saves.

Stefan Noesen and Jesper Bratt scored for the Devils. New Jersey goaltender Cory Schneider finished with 30 saves and remains winless (0-15-2) since Dec. 27, 2017, a span of 18 regular-season games. The Devils fell to 2-9 in road games.

Tampa Bay has outscored the Devils 13-5 in two meetings this season.

Kings 5, Oilers 2: Dustin Brown recorded a hat trick to lead host Los Angeles past Edmonton.

Anze Kopitar scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period and had two assists. Matt Luff also scored and Cal Petersen made 32 saves for the Kings, who snapped a five-game home losing streak.

Brown completed his hat trick at 19:06 with an empty-net goal.

Alex Chiasson scored twice for the Oilers, who went 1-1-1 during their first road trip under new coach Ken Hitchcock. Connor McDavid had an assist to extend his point streak to six games, and Cam Talbot made 27 saves.

ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP
Flames center Mark Jankowski, right, scores a short-handed goal against Coyotes goaltender Antti Raanta during the third period on Sunday in Glendale, Ariz. The Flames defeated the Coyotes 6-1.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Experienced Zags, Cavs rise above early hoopla

By Aaron Beard
Associated Press

PARADISE ISLAND, Bahamas — Experienced Gonzaga and Virginia sent not-so-subtle reminders not to discount talented, veteran-led teams.

While Duke and its vaunted freshmen class were the talk college basketball for the first two weeks of the season, Gonzaga and Virginia walked away with titles to cap off Thanksgiving holiday tournaments.

The Zags held off the much-ballyhooed Blue Devils to win the Maui Invitational in what could have been a preview of a late-March showdown. At the other end of the spectrum were the Cavaliers, who beat No. 25 Wisconsin to win the Battle 4 Atlantis in a low-scoring game featuring teams content to grind it out with defense and clock-melting stretches that limited the number of possessions and magnified any mistake.

Both styles worked.

"We said we want to learn something as every team would as they come into this tournament," Virginia coach Tony Bennett said after Friday's win against the Badgers and preseason Associated Press All-American Ethan Happ.

Experience also showed for No. 6 Nevada and No. 11 Michigan State in winning separate brackets at the Las Vegas Invitational, with both being led by upperclassmen (Wolf Pack fifth-year senior Caleb Martin and Spartans junior Cassius Winston) who earned MVP honors. And in Michigan State's case, that title came by maintaining poise well enough to rally from 19 down against Texas.

Here are some takeaways from those holiday tournaments:

Maui's top trio

Maui had the best field of the week with Duke, Gonzaga and No. 8 Auburn, so there were plenty of measuring-stick moments among legitimate Final Four contenders.

No team was more impressive than Gonzaga — in any tournament.

The Zags offense created problems for Duke, with the Blue Devils having a hard time deciphering all their ball screens and motion. Gonzaga will only get stronger when 6-foot-10 junior Killian Tillie returns from preseason ankle surgery in the coming weeks. Tournament MVP Rui Hachimura, a versatile and aggressive 6-8 junior forward, is establishing himself as one of the nation's top players.

But it was Gonzaga's defensive efforts that most impressed coach Mark Few, who said, "We can really build on that."

Dominant hunter

Virginia showcased a growing, game-changing presence in 6-7 redshirt sophomore De'Andre Hunter.

Hunter was the Atlantis MVP in the Bahamas after three sometimes-dominant performances. First came a near triple-double against Middle Tennessee. Then he matched a career-high with 23 points and hit a key three-pointer with about a minute left to help hold off Dayton. He closed with 20 points

MARCO GARCIA/AP
Gonzaga forward Rui Hachimura reacts after drawing a foul against Duke at the Maui Invitational last week. Gonzaga defeated the highly-touted young Duke squad, 89-87.

ZACK WAJSGRAS, THE DAILY PROGRESS/AP
Virginia guard De'Andre Hunter was named MVP at the Battle for Atlantis tournament in the Bahamas.

against Wisconsin.

He was the ACC's sixth man of the year last year but suffered a broken wrist that sidelined him for the NCAA Tournament — and the Cavs certainly missed him as they struggled to contain UMBC's guards in that unprecedented 16-vs-1 March upset. As long as he stays healthy, he's a weapon at both ends alongside veterans Kyle Guy and Ty Jerome, not to mention Virginia's best NBA prospect by far.

"You look at the length and the dimensions, and some of those nice plays he makes offensively," Bennett said. "But I get equally excited about what he's doing defensively, spreading out and being able to guard sometimes a 4, sometimes a perimeter guy. And his alertness took a step in the right direction."

Champs back?

There is reason for optimism at Villanova, though the reigning national champs still have work to do.

The Wildcats looked befuddled in a blowout home loss to Michigan in a rematch of last year's title game and an overtime home loss to Furman, which knocked the Wildcats out of the Top 25 poll. Guard Phil Booth said at the time the Wildcats are "a young team trying to find our way."

Villanova looked more like it had figured out that path at the AdvoCare Invitational in Orlando, Fla.

On point

Freshman Coby White could be taking hold of the starting point guard job for North Carolina.

He had 33 points — the most by a UNC freshman since Harrison Barnes had 40 in the 2011 Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament — and seven three-pointers in the loss to Texas in the Las Vegas Invitational. He followed with 19 points and eight assists against UCLA.

The production came with injured point guard Seventh Woods sidelined by a concussion. Woods lacks White's scoring potential but has 27 assists with just six turnovers.

Replacing Young

Oklahoma senior guard Christian James appears ready to fill the scoring void created by the one-and-done departure of Trae Young to the NBA.

Young led the country in scoring and assists; James arrived at the Battle 4 Atlantis averaging a Big 12-best 22.7 points.

James had at least 18 points in three straight games as Oklahoma finished third. Coach Lon Kruger has said he expects it will have to be a group effort this year to replace Young's production, but added: James "is shooting with confidence and making good plays."

James said his teammates are telling him they need him to score and "that takes a load off of me knowing I can relax and play my game and let it flow."

Top 25 roundup

Villanova gets back on track

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Collin Gillespie had 17 points, including two key late free throws, and the Wildcats won the AdvoCare Invitational by beating No. 14 Florida State 66-60 on Sunday.

"He loves the competition," Villanova coach Jay Wright said. "I'm just glad he's on our side."

Gillespie made it 64-60 by connecting on a pair of free throws with 11.2 seconds to play in what was a tight second half.

Eric Paschall had 15 points and Phil Booth chipped in 12 for the defending national champions (5-2). Dhamir Cosby-Roundtree had 11 points and eight rebounds.

Villanova went from No. 8 to out of the Top 25 — the first time since December 2013 — in last Monday's poll after losing to Michigan 73-46 in a rematch of last season's championship game and losing 76-68 in overtime to Furman.

Florida State (5-1) got 11 points from both Mfiondu Kabengele and Trent Forrest.

"They did a much better job of playing to their strengths than we did ours," Florida State coach Leonard Hamilton said. "I thought our guys gave good effort. I think that we're a team that has a chance to develop into a pretty good basketball team."

Oklahoma State 90, No. 19 LSU 77: Cameron McGriff had 28 points and Lindy Waters added 16.

The Cowboys were 6-6 against ranked teams last season. Skylar Mays scored 20 points for the Tigers (5-2), who were coming off a 79-76 overtime loss to No. 14 Florida State on Friday.

McGriff hit a three and Waters made three free throws during a second-half opening 15-2 run that put Oklahoma State ahead 57-39 with 13 minutes to play.

PHELAN M. EBENHACK/AP
Villanova's Eric Paschall reacts during a 66-60 win over Florida State on Sunday.

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	17	4	.810	—
Philadelphia	14	8	.636	3½
Boston	10	10	.500	6½
Brooklyn	8	13	.381	9
New York	7	14	.333	10

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	10	10	.500	—
Charlotte	9	10	.474	½
Washington	7	12	.368	2½
Miami	7	12	.368	2½
Atlanta	4	16	.200	6

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	14	5	.737	—
Detroit	10	7	.588	3
Indiana	10	10	.500	4½
Chicago	5	15	.250	9½
Cleveland	4	14	.222	9½

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	12	7	.632	—
New Orleans	11	9	.550	1½
Dallas	9	9	.500	2½
Houston	9	9	.500	2½
San Antonio	9	10	.474	3

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	13	7	.650	—
Oklahoma City	12	7	.632	½
Portland	12	8	.600	1
Minnesota	9	11	.450	4
Utah	9	11	.450	4

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	13	6	.684	—
Golden State	14	8	.636	½
L.A. Lakers	11	8	.579	2
Sacramento	10	10	.500	3½
Phoenix	4	15	.211	9

Saturday's games
Cleveland 117, Houston 108
Denver 105, Oklahoma City 98
Minnesota 111, Chicago 100
Washington 124, New Orleans 114
Dallas 113, Boston 104
Golden State 141, Sacramento 116
Milwaukee 135, San Antonio 129

Sunday's games
Orlando 108, L.A. Lakers 104
Detroit 120, Phoenix 107
Atlanta 124, Charlotte 123
New York 103, Memphis 98
Philadelphia 127, Brooklyn 125
Toronto 125, Miami 115
Utah 133, Sacramento 112
L.A. Clippers 104, Portland 100

Monday's games
Houston at Washington
Milwaukee at Charlotte
Minnesota at Cleveland
Boston at New Orleans
San Antonio at Chicago
Indiana at Utah
Orlando at Golden State

Tuesday's games
New York at Detroit
Atlanta at Miami
Toronto at Memphis
Indiana at Phoenix
L.A. Lakers at Denver

76ers 127, Nets 125

PHILADELPHIA — Butler 11-20 7-7 34, Chandler 4-7 0-0 10, Embiid 11-19 10-12 32, Simmons 5-13 3-6 13, Redick 5-14 4-4 15, Muscala 0-4 1-2 1, McConnell 2-3 0-0 4, Shamet 5-7 2-2 16, Korkmaz 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 44-91 27-33 127.
BROOKLYN — Harris 4-10 0-0 9, Hollis-Jefferson 6-9 0-0 13, Allen 7-11 3-5 17, Russell 6-19 0-0 13, Carroll 5-12 2-2 15, Davis 3-5 1-3 7, Dinwiddie 11-15 5-6 31, Napier 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 48-86 11-18 95.

Philadelphia	28	36	34	29—127
Brooklyn	32	36	34	23—125

Three-point Goals—Philadelphia 12-29 (Butler 5-6, Shamet 4-4, Chandler 2-4, Redick 1-5, McConnell 0-1, Korkmaz 0-2, Embiid 0-3, Muscala 0-4), Brooklyn 10-25 (Dinwiddie 4-5, Russell 2-6, Dudley 1-1, Hollis-Jefferson 1-1, Carroll 1-1, Harris 1-5, Allen 0-1, Napier 0-2 Crabbe 0-3). Fouled Out—Davis. Rebounds—Philadelphia 42 (Embiid, Butler 12), Brooklyn 43 (Allen 10). Assists—Philadelphia 28 (Simmons 9), Brooklyn 19 (Russell 8). Total Fouls—Philadelphia 22, Brooklyn 25. Technicals—Butler. A—(17,732).

Magic 108, Lakers 104

ORLANDO — Iwundu 0-3 0-0 0, Gordon 8-14 0-0 17, Vucevic 10-20 8-8 31, Augustin 5-9 1-1 12, Fournier 9-14 0-2 24, Grant 2-3 0-0 5, Martin 0-0 0-0 0, Bamba 2-4 0-0 5, Grant 2-3 0-0 5, Simmons 4-11 2-2 10, Ross 6-12 0-0 16. Totals 43-93 13-14 108.
L.A. LAKERS — James 8-14 6-11 24, Kuzma 7-15 5-7 21, McGee 5-9 2-2 12, Ball 4-9 0-0 9, Ingram 7-14 3-5 17, Mykhailiuk 0-2 1-2 1, Chandler 1-1 0-0 2, Caldwell-Pope 1-7 2-2 5, Stephenson 4-8 1-2 13, Hart 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-79 20-31 104.

Orlando	19	32	35	22—108
L.A. Lakers	29	23	19	33—104

Three-point Goals—Orlando 9-31 (Ross 4-7, Vucevic 3-6, Bamba 1-1, Grant 1-2, Augustin 1-3, Fournier 1-4, Gordon 1-2, Iwundu 0-1, Simmons 0-2, Fournier 0-2), L.A. Lakers 10-31 (Stephenson 4-6, Kuzma 2-4, James 2-7, Ball 1-2, Caldwell-Pope 1-4, McGee 0-1, Ingram 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Orlando 42 (Vucevic 15), L.A. Lakers 42 (Ball 10). Assists—Orlando 22 (James 7), L.A. Lakers 27 (James 7). Total Fouls—Orlando 22, L.A. Lakers 17. Technicals—Orlando coach Steve Clifford. Flagrant Fouls—(Vucevic 15). L.A. Lakers coach Luke Walton. A—18,997 (18,997).

Raptors 125, Heat 115

MIAMI — McGruder 3-9 0-0 7, J.Johnson 2-7 2-2 6, Whiteside 1-5 0-0 2, J.Richardson 6-19 4-6 19, Ellington 3-7 1-1 10, Winslow 3-10 2-2 9, Olynyk 4-6 0-0 1, Adebayo 4-10 8-12 16, Wade 13-22 5-7 35. Totals 39-95 22-32 115.
TORONTO — Leonard 8-20 10-12 29, Siakam 8-9 4-4 21, Valanciunas 8-10 1-1 17, Lowry 5-12 0-0 12, Green 2-6 0-0 6, Miles 3-7 2-2 10, Anunoby 2-4 0-2 4, Ibaka 3-9 2-2 8, Wright 4-7 0-0 10, VanVleet 4-6 1-2 10. Totals 47-90 20-25 125.

Miami	29	25	35	26—115
Toronto	36	27	38	24—125

Three-point Goals—Miami 15-36 (Wade 4-7, Olynyk 3-4, Ellington 3-7, J.Richardson 3-8, Winslow 1-2, McGruder 1-5, Adebayo 0-1, J.Johnson 0-2), Toronto 11-35 (Leonard 3-8, Wright 2-3, Miles 2-6, Lowry 2-9, Siakam 1-1, VanVleet 1-2, Anunoby 0-2, Green 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Miami 46 (Adebayo 21), Toronto 47 (Leonard, Valanciunas 10). Assists—Miami 21 (Wade 6), Toronto 25 (Lowry 10). Total Fouls—Miami 22, Toronto 21. Technicals—Leonard. A—19,800 (19,800).

Jazz 133, Kings 112

UTAH — Ingles 6-8 4-4 18, Crowder 6-13 1-1 14, Favors 7-11 4-6 18, Rubio 11-16 3-4 27, O'Neale 1-5 0-0 2, Sefolosha 0-2 2-2 2, Udoh 0-0 0-0 0, Favors 4-7 3-5 11, Niang 2-2 0-0 5, Neto 2-6 4-4 9, Exum 2-5 0-0 4, Burks 6-12 1-1 14, Allen 2-5 3-6 9. Totals 49-92 25-33 133.
SACRAMENTO — Bogdanovic 6-14 6-6 20, Bjelica 4-4 3-3 12, Cauley-Stein 2-6 2-2 6, Fox 5-11 2-5 13, Hield 5-10 0-0 12, Jackson 1-2 1-2 3, Giles III 5-14 0-0 10, Bagley III 6-12 6-8 18, Labissiere 1-1 0-1 2, Ferrell 1-2 2-5 Mason 1-4 1-2 3, McLemore 0-2 0-0 0, Williams 3-4 0-0 8. Totals 40-85 23-31 112.

Utah	30	29	32	42—133
Sacramento	26	24	30	32—112

Three-point Goals—Utah 10-30 (Rubio 2-3, Ingles 2-4, Allen 2-5, Neto 1-1, Niang 1-1, Burks 1-6, Crowder 1-6, O'Neale 0-2, Sefolosha 0-2), Sacramento 9-23 (Williams 2-2, Bogdanovic 2-6, Bjelica 1-1, Ferrell 1-1, Fox 1-2, McLemore 0-1, Giles III 0-1, Mason 0-1, Jackson 0-1, Hield 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Utah 48 (Gobert 15), Sacramento 36 (Giles III 8). Assists—Utah 30 (Ingles 6), Sacramento 20 (Giles III 6). Total Fouls—Utah 26, Sacramento 26. Technicals—Utah coach Jazz (Defensive three second), Bjelica. A—16,048 (17,608).

Knicks 103, Grizzlies 98

NEW YORK — Hezonja 3-8 5-6 12, Vonleh 2-4 2-2 7, Kanter 9-16 3-6 21, Mudiay 5-12 2-4 13, Hardaway Jr. 6-16 7-7 22, Knox 0-3 0-0 0, Robinson 0-2 0-0 0, Ntilikina 2-6 2-2 7, Burke 2-6 1-1 5, Trier 5-10 2-2 0. Totals 34-91 27-32 103.
MEMPHIS — Anderson 2-3 0-3 4, Jackson 0-5 0-0 0, Temple 10-21 4-8 27, Conley 8-24 5-6 23, Temple 2-6 0-0 5, Casspi 2-3 0-0 4, Green 2-8 2-2 6, Mack 2-6 0-0 4, Jackson 2-3 0-0 3, M.Brooks 3-6 0-0 6. Totals 36-81 11-19 98.

New York	25	35	25	18—103
Memphis	25	25	21	27—98

Three-point Goals—New York 8-22 (Hardaway Jr. 3-7, Mudiay 2-4, Ntilikina 1-2 Burke 1-2, Vonleh 1-2, Kanter 0-1, Trier 0-1, Hezonja 0-1, Knox 0-3), Memphis 7-23 (Temple 3-8, Conley 2-10, Selden 1-2, Temple 1-4, Green 0-1, Mack 0-3). Fouled Out—Temple. Rebounds—New York 56 (Kanter 26), Memphis 41 (Gasol 8). Assists—New York 17 (Mudiay 4), Memphis 27 (Conley 10). Total Fouls—New York 21, Memphis 23. Technicals—Vonleh, Temple, Green, Memphis coach Grizzlies (Defensive three second). A—14,331 (18,119).

Hawks 124, Hornets 123

CHARLOTTE — Batum 5-8 4-4 14, Williams 7-14 2-2 20, Zeller 2-5 3-4 7, Walker 6-24 12-12 32, Lamb 5-11 1-2 13, Bridges 1-6 2-2 4, Kaminsky 2-3 6-9 11, Graham 1-3 0-0 2, Monk 9-15 1-1 26, Bacon 2-5 0-0 4. Totals 41-93 23-28 123.
ATLANTA — Prince 5-13 3-3 16, Collins 11-16 1-2 23, Dedmon 1-4 0-0 2, Young 6-18 2-2 18, Huerter 1-2 1-2 4, Bembry 7-10 0-0 16, Spellman 2-4 0-0 5, Len 3-7 1-2 8, Lin 0-2 0-0 0, Bazemore 9-11 0-0 20. Totals 50-94 8-11 124.

Charlotte	43	31	26—123	
Atlanta	32	33	35	24—124

Three-point Goals—Charlotte 18-45 (Monk 7-11, Williams 4-9, Walker 4-9, Lamb 2-6, Kaminsky 1-1, Graham 0-2, Batum 0-2, Bacon 0-2, Bridges 0-3), Atlanta 16-39 (Young 4-10, Prince 3-8, Bazemore 2-3, Bembry 2-3, Len 1-4, Collins 0-1, Dedmon 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Charlotte 43 (Williams 11), Atlanta 41 (Collins 11). Assists—Charlotte 30 (Walker 9), Atlanta 34 (Bembry 6). Total Fouls—Charlotte 15, Atlanta 23. A—12,977 (18,118).

Pistons 118, Suns 107

PHOENIX — Ariza 1-5 2-2 5, Warren 3-8 0-0 6, Ayton 11-13 3-4 25, Booker 14-25 6-6 37, Bridges 1-8 0-0 2, T.Jackson 3-4 3-3 10, Holmes 4-6 2-5 10, Canaan 0-2 0-0 0, Crawford 4-8 1-2 12. Totals 42-83 15-21 107.
DETROIT — Robinson III 2-2 0-0 4, Griffin 7-16 0-0 16, Drummond 9-14 1-8 19, R.Jackson 6-20 3-3 15, Johnson 5-9 2-2 14, Pachulia 1-3 5-6 7, Galloway 4-6 3-3 15, Smith 3-10 1-2 9, Brown 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 43-93 16-25 118.

Phoenix	30	30	24	23—107
Detroit	27	35	21	35—118

Three-point Goals—Phoenix 8-25 (Crawford 3-4, Booker 3-9, Ariza 1-3, J.Jackson 1-4, Warren 0-2, Bridges 0-3), Detroit 16-41 (Galloway 4-6, R.Jackson 4-15, Johnson 2-3, Smith 2-4, Bullock 2-5, Griffin 2-8, Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Phoenix 42 (Ayton 16), Detroit 43 (Drummond 16). Assists—Phoenix 22 (Booker, Crawford 5), Detroit 30 (Griffin 11). Total Fouls—Phoenix 22, Detroit 19. Technicals—Phoenix coach Suns (Defensive three second) 2, Warren 2, Detroit coach Pistons (Defensive three second). Ejected—Warren. A—14,413 (20,491).

Clippers 104, Trail Blazers 100

L.A. CLIPPERS — Harris 14-22 4-4 34, Gallinari 5-10 5-6 17, Gortat 3-4 0-0 6, Gilgeous-Alexander 4-9 4-5 12, Bradley 2-11 0-1 4, Harrell 5-11 4-4 14, Scott 0-3 0-0 0, Beverley 1-3 4-4 7, Teodosic 2-4 2-2 6, Williams 2-13 0-4 4. Totals 38-90 23-34 104.
PORTLAND — Harkless 2-4 0-0 4, Aminu 0-5 0-0 0, Nurkic 2-4 0-0 4, Lillard 11-27 3-4 30, McCollum 8-21 0-0 18, Leonard 3-5 1-1 9, Collins 4-7 1-1 9, Curry 2-7 0-0 5, Turner 7-14 3-3 17. Totals 42-97 8-10 100.

L.A. Clippers	24	31	21—104	
Portland	28	30	16	26—100

Three-point Goals—L.A. Clippers 5-25 (Gallinari 2-4, Harris 2-6, Beverley 1-3, Gilgeous-Alexander 0-1, Teodosic 0-2, Scott 0-3, Bradley 0-4), Portland 8-18 (Lillard 2-4, McCollum 8-21 0-0 18, Curry 2-7 0-0 5, Stauskas 2-3 0-0 4, Turner 7-14 3-3 17. Totals 42-97 8-10 100.

Roundup

Sixers' Butler hits another winning 3

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jimmy Butler's new teammates saw him drift to one of his favorite spots on the court and already knew what to expect.

Butler made a three-pointer with 2.3 seconds remaining to give the Philadelphia 76ers a 127-125 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Sunday.

"Man, to tell you the truth it could have been anybody," the Sixers' recent addition said.

"They do have a lot of confidence in me but I got so much more confidence in those guys. They really got us back in the game."

Butler's shot from the right wing, similar to the one that beat Charlotte in overtime on Nov. 17, capped Philadelphia's rally from 20 points down in a game the Nets led nearly all the way.

Butler finished with 34 points and 12 rebounds, and Joel Embiid had 32 points and 12 boards for the 76ers, who have won five of their last six games.

A game-time decision after spraining his ankle against Cleveland on Friday night, Butler looked fine after he spent Saturday at Villanova's home gym.

He hoisted up shots from about 20 different spots, including the same area from where he would go on to make the 76ers a winner.

Embiid has grown accustomed to Butler's flair for the dramatic, but knew his new teammate had to rush it a little after Philadelphia inbounded the ball with just 10.2 seconds remaining.

"He kept taking his time and I am like, 'Are you going to freaking shoot the ball?'" Embiid said. "You know, big-time play. He got to his spot and he made a big-time shot."

The Nets shot 57 percent from the field and hit 46 percent beyond the three-point line to head into the half with a 68-54 lead before the 76ers rallied.

D'Angelo Russell had 38 points, his highest total with the Nets, and added eight assists and eight rebounds. Spencer Dinwiddie scored 31 points off the bench for Brooklyn, which is just 3-6 at home.

"It's tough, we played 45 minutes of that game and lost it to that one shot, but we gave ourselves a chance," Russell said.

The 76ers, who are a league-best 10-1 at home, improved to just 4-7 away from the Wells Fargo Center.

Magic 108, Lakers 104: Nikola Vucevic had 31 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists and Terrence Ross made a go-ahead layup with 34 seconds left to help visiting Orlando beat Los Angeles.

Ross scored 16 points as the Magic defeated the Lakers for the second time in eight days. Orlando won 130-117 at home on Nov. 17.

Aaron Gordon had 17 points and D.J. Augustin added 12 points and nine assists for the Magic.

LeBron James had 24 points and seven assists for the Lakers, who had won three straight games and six of their past seven. Kyle Kuzma scored 21 points and Brandon Ingram added 17.

Raptors 125, Heat 115: Kawhi Leonard had 29 points and 10 rebounds, Kyle Lowry added 12 points and 10 assists, and host Toronto won its fifth straight.

Jonas Valanciunas had 17 points and 10 rebounds as the Raptors improved their NBA-leading record to 17-4.

Dwyane Wade scored a season-high 35 points, the most ever by a Miami bench player.

Knicks 103, Grizzlies 98: Enes Kanter had a career-high 26 rebounds and scored 21 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. finished with 22 points and visiting New York overcame a poor shooting first half to beat Memphis.

Emmanuel Mudiay added 17 points, and Trey Burke had 15 to help the Knicks win their first straight in former Grizzlies coach David Fizdale's return.

Marc Gasol led Memphis with 27 points.

Clippers 104, Trail Blazers 100: Tobias Harris had 34 points and 11 rebounds, and visiting Los Angeles beat Portland.

Danilo Gallinari made the tie-breaking jumper with 47 seconds left and added 17 points for the Clippers.

Damian Lillard scored 30 points for Portland, which led by 13 at halftime but then had to play the second half without starting center Jusuf Nurkic because of a bruised shoulder.

Pistons 118, Suns 107: Andre Drummond had 19 points and 16 rebounds, and host Detroit pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Phoenix.

Devin Booker scored 37 points for Phoenix, and Detroit had a hard time shaking free of the Suns until a 15-3 run in the fourth.

Deandre Ayton had 25 points for 13 rebounds for the Suns.

Hawks 124, Hornets 123: John Collins had 23 points and 11 rebounds and blocked Kemba Walker's runner as time expired, helping host Atlanta snap a 10-game losing streak with a victory over Charlotte.

Walker, the NBA's second-leading scorer, hit a jumper to put Charlotte up by one with 47.5 seconds remaining, but he committed a shot-clock turnover on the next possession and finished 7-for-23 from the field for 22 points.

Jazz 133, Kings 112: Rudy Gobert had 18 points and 15 rebounds, Ricky Rubio scored 27 points and visiting Utah beat Sacramento to snap a three-game losing streak.

MARK LENNIHAN/AP

The 76ers' Joel Embiid, left, congratulates Jimmy Butler after he sank a game-winning three pointer against the Nets on Sunday.

SPORTS BRIEFS/NFL

Briefly

Jaguars fire OC Hackett

From wire reports

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars have fired offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett after the team's seventh consecutive loss.

Coach Doug Marrone made the decision Monday, one day after a 24-21 loss at Buffalo in which Blake Bortles finished with 127 yards passing. The Jaguars (3-8) had a season-low 107 yards through the air the previous week against Pittsburgh.

Hackett has failed to get Bortles and the offense to play anywhere close to the way they did early in the season. Injuries have been a major issue, but not enough to save Hackett's job.

Marrone says "these are always tough decisions, but as the head coach, I have to do what I think is best for this football team."

It was clear Hackett's job was in jeopardy when Marrone moved him from the sideline to the coaches' booth for the game against the Bills, an indication Marrone felt Hackett needed a new vantage point to call games better.

Sourc: UNC to hire Brown as football coach

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — North Carolina has hired Mack Brown to lead its football program.

Again.

Brown will be announced as UNC's new football coach, said a source with direct knowledge of the negotiations.

Efforts to reach Brown, his agent and UNC athletic director Bubba Cunningham were unsuccessful Monday morning.

Brown, 67, coached 10 seasons at UNC from 1988 to 1997. During that span, he amassed a 69-46-1 record. And from 1992, until his final year there in 1997, Brown helped lead the Tar Heels to five consecutive bowl games. In his final year, the Tar Heels climbed to as high as No. 4 in the AP Top 25 poll, and finished No. 6 overall.

Brown is revered among UNC fans, and is often credited with helping to change the perception of its football program. He left UNC after the 1997 season for Texas, where he won a national championship in 2005 and finished undefeated.

ACC punishes seven for UNC-NC State brawl

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The Atlantic Coast Conference has suspended and reprimanded seven players who took part in an end-zone brawl following North Carolina State's victory over North Carolina.

The league said Monday that four players from UNC — including two seniors whose eligibility has been exhausted — and three from N.C. State will be suspended for one half of their team's next game.

The players suspended and publicly reprimanded were Dominique Ross, Patrice Rene, J.K. Britt and Jeremiah Clarke of North Carolina, and Freddie Phillips Jr., Tyler Jones and Justin Witt of N.C. State.

The Tar Heels must sit out for half of the 2019 season opener against South Carolina, while the N.C. State players will miss part of the ECU game. The schools will determine whether it's the first or the second half of those games.

The suspensions for Britt and Clarke are symbolic because they were seniors for the Tar Heels this season.

Tempers flared immediately Saturday after Reggie Gallaspy II scored the winning touchdown in overtime in Chapel Hill. Some pushing and shoving in the end zone after that score led to a melee in which players from both teams were seen throwing punches.

Cilic clinches Davis Cup for Croatia

LILLE, France — Marin Cilic sealed Croatia's victory over defending champion France in the Davis Cup final with a 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-3 win over Lucas Pouille on Sunday.

Cilic, a former U.S. Open champion, gave Croatia a 3-1 unassailable lead in the best-of-five series on indoor clay in northern France with a ruthless display.

Cilic lived up to his status of team leader this weekend, winning his two matches without dropping a set.

Croatia claimed a second title in the team event following its first win in 2005.

The Davis Cup final was played for the last time in its traditional format. Beginning next year, the top team event in men's tennis will be decided with a season-ending, 18-team tournament at a neutral site.

Atlanta United routs Red Bulls in playoff

ATLANTA — Josef Martinez, Franco Escobar and Hector Villalba scored and Atlanta United blew out the Supporters' Shield-winning New York Red Bulls 3-0 on Sunday in the opening leg of the Eastern Conference final.

Atlanta gave itself a huge edge heading into the second leg Thursday night in Harrison, N.J. The winner of the two-game, cumulative-goals series will host the MLS Cup final Dec. 8 against Portland or Sporting Kansas City.

Before a crowd of 70,016 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, United defeated the Red Bulls for the first time in franchise history after three losses and a draw in their previous meetings. Atlanta also gave itself a bit of redemption after losing the Supporters' Shield to New York on the final day of the regular season.

In the other MLS playoff game,

Tim Melia made six saves and Sporting Kansas City survived Portland's aggressive attack for a 0-0 draw in the opening leg of the Western Conference finals.

Flyers fire GM Hextall after 10-11-2 start

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Flyers fired general manager Ron Hextall on Monday, with the team struggling and coming off a 6-0 loss to Toronto.

Hextall was dismissed after 4½ seasons on the job. The Flyers have a 10-11-2 record under coach Dave Hakstol and already have used five goalies this season.

Flyers President Paul Holmgren thanked Hextall for his "many significant contributions, but it has become clear that we no longer share the same philosophical approach concerning the direction of the team."

He added that an immediate change was in the team's best interests and he hopes to have a new GM "as soon as possible."

Hextall played 13 seasons in the NHL and had two stints covering 11 years with the Flyers.

■ The Montreal Canadiens have placed defenseman Karl Alzner on waivers. The 30-year-old has an assist in eight games this season. He had a goal and 11 points in 82 games with Montreal last season after signing a five-year, $23.125 million deal in the 2017 offseason.

Belgium claims first World Cup of Golf title

MELBOURNE, Australia — Thomas Pieters and Thomas Detry gave Belgium its first World Cup of Golf title Sunday, holding on for a three-stroke victory at Metropolitan Golf Club.

Pieters and Detry closed with a 4-under 68 in foursomes to finish at 23-under 265. They opened with a 63 in fourballs, shot 71 in driving rain and wind Friday in foursomes and had a 63 on Saturday in fourballs to take a five-stroke lead into the final round. The Belgians each earned $1.12 million

Australia's Marc Leishman and Cameron Smith and Mexico's Abraham Ancer, the Australian Open winner last week, and Roberto Diaz tied for second. Leishman and Smith shot 65, and Ancer and Roberto Diaz closed with a 66.

Americans Matt Kuchar and Kyle Stanley tied for 16th at 9 under after a 68.

In other golf news:

■ Aaron Rai won the Hong Kong Open in torrential rain for his European Tour title, shooting a 1-under 69 for a one-shot victory over fellow Englishman Matthew Fitzpatrick.

The 23-year-old Rai, six strokes ahead entering the round, finished at 17-under 263 Hong Kong Golf Club. He shot a course-record 61 on Friday.

BILL KOSTROUN/AP

Jets cornerback Morris Claiborne, right, defends Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski during the first half Sunday, in East Rutherford, N.J. Gronkowski scored a touchdown on the play.

Ready: Patriots will need healthy Gronkowski for run

you'll score your share of points. They will need to do exactly that, probably throughout the playoffs, to get to the big game in Atlanta.

"You'd love to be perfect out there," Brady said. "The other teams are well-coached and they have a lot of good players, too. When you win, you feel really good. Obviously, a couple of weeks ago, we did everything the opposite of what we needed to do (at Tennessee). I think we're doing a better job taking care of the ball; it gives us a much better chance to win games. Scoring more points, converting on third downs, scoring in the red area, all those things are really important that we talked about.

"We made some plays, there are certainly ones we left out there, but we'll take it and keep moving forward."

As they move forward, observers' eyes will be on several areas:

Gronk's health: Getting back Gronkowski is huge. He's a difference maker even when he's not targeted because of the attention defenses must pay to the star tight end, and the lift he provides teammates. He's also brittle, an effect of his playing such a rugged game and taking so many massive hits.

Other than Edelman and the ultra-dangerous James White out of the backfield, Gronk's support crew isn't intimidating. Josh Gordon remains limited and Chris Hogan is solid, but not a No. 1 wideout. The rest of the cast is, well, the rest of the cast.

More than perhaps ever in his nine pro seasons, Gronk's availability is paramount.

The road: New England has

played three stinkers away from Foxborough; it's 5-0 at home. Two of those defeats were to now-mediocre-or-worse Detroit and Jacksonville in September. More worrisome are the sour notes the Patriots played in Music City in Week 10.

Never before had former Bill Belichick assistant coaches outmastered the mentor. It happened with both the Lions and Titans this year, of course.

The Patriots always struggle in Miami, where they've lost four of their last five. They also visit Pittsburgh, not quite a palace of horrors — New England has won three of the last four trips to Heinz Field — but by far their most difficult remaining opponent.

Of the eight Super Bowls Brady has guided them to, the Patriots never have missed earning a first-round bye.

The defense: Here's the great mystery.

Other than safety Devin McCourty, a long-time standout who rarely has gotten the credit he deserves, and linebacker Dont'a Hightower, New England appears to lack difference makers. This group is more a collection of parts fit into roles. They don't get a lot of pressure on passers, aren't particularly ball hawks, and, far too many times, New York's so-so group of receivers was roaming free.

Doing that against Antonio Brown, Tyreek Hill or DeAndre Hopkins in the postseason — not a good idea.

Naturally, anyone who dismisses Brady and Co. has little sense of history. The Patriots of Thanksgiving weekend aren't great. Check in around New Year's Day to see where they stand.

NFL

The Seahawks' Tyler Lockett catches a pass against the Panthers' Captain Munnerlyn during the second half Sunday in Charlotte, N.C.

CHUCK BURTON/AP

Wilson leads rally against Panthers

BY STEVE REED
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Tyler Lockett knew if Russell Wilson bought him a few more seconds, he could spring himself for a big play.

Wilson did just that, sidestepping a few pass rushers in the pocket and enabling Lockett to slip behind cornerback Captain Munnerlyn and haul in a 43-yard completion at the Carolina 10. Wilson then took a knee twice and spiked the ball once to set up Sebastian Janikowski's 31-yard field goal as time expired, allowing the Seattle Seahawks to complete a 30-27 come-from-behind win over the Panthers on Sunday.

"When Russell keeps it alive, we understand how hard it is for defenders to try to guard somebody more than five seconds," Lockett said. "If it is longer than four or five seconds, it puts us in a better position to get open."

Wilson threw for 339 yards and two touchdowns, putting the Seahawks (6-5) firmly in contention for an NFC wild card spot. Lockett finished with five catches for 107 yards and a touchdown, while David Moore had four receptions for 103 yards and a score.

Wilson said Lockett was working on a move in Friday's walkthrough practice where he broke off the play and went deep.

"There was a play where he kind of stuttered and then went. He said, 'Hey, I'm just working on something, just in case we need it,'" Wilson said of Lockett. "The funny thing is we needed it."

The Panthers, also 6-5, suddenly find themselves on the outside looking in at the NFC playoff picture after losing three straight and having their 10-game home winning streak snapped. The prospect of Carolina missing the playoffs would have been unimaginable at the beginning of the month.

"Three weeks ago if somebody had said this was going to happen I would have slapped them," said quarterback Cam Newton, who completed 25 of 30 passes for 256 yards and two touchdowns.

Wilson tied the game with 3:26 remaining when he gambled on a fourth-and-3, lofting a 35-yard touchdown pass to Moore, who beat Corn Elder in the corner of the end zone.

Another big miss: Wilson's big completion to Lockett came after Graham Gano missed a 52-yard field goal with 1:40 left in the game that would have given the Panthers the lead.

It snapped a remarkable string of 41 straight made field goals at home for Gano.

"It's really, really frustrating," Gano said. "I've got the leg to make those kicks, that's why it's a tough one to swallow. They've got the faith in me to kick them from far, so I've got to go out there and make them."

Wasted day: The Panthers spoiled a record-setting performance from McCaffrey, who had a franchise-record 237 yards from scrimmage and two more touchdowns. He had 17 carries for 125 yards and 11 catches for 112 yards, becoming the first Carolina player to surpass 100 yards in both receiving and rushing in the same game.

Seahawks 30, Panthers 27

Seattle	0	10	7	13	—30
Carolina	7	10	7	7	—27

First Quarter
Car—FG Gano 26, 2:11.
Second Quarter
Sea—FG Janikowski 33, 12:41.
Car—Samuel 7 pass from Newton (Gano kick), 6:15.
Sea—Carson 1 run (Janikowski kick), 2:24.
Car—FG Gano 25, :00.
Third Quarter
Sea—Lockett 12 pass from Wilson (Janikowski kick), 6:45.
Car—McCaffrey 1 run (Gano kick), 1:41.
Fourth Quarter
Sea—FG Janikowski 9:27.
Car—McCaffrey 2 pass from Newton (Gano kick), 6:57.
Sea—Da.Moore 35 pass from Wilson (Janikowski kick), 3:26.
Sea—FG Janikowski 31, :00.
A—74,002.

	Sea	Car
First downs	21	26
Total Net Yards	397	476
Rushes-yards	28-75	27-220
Passing	322	256
Punt Returns	0-0	2-19
Kickoff Returns	0-0	3-75
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	22-31-0	25-30-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-17	0-0
Punts	3-52.7	1-55.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	5-0
Penalties-Yards	4-36	3-30
Time of Possession	30:26	29:34

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—**Seattle,** Carson 16-55, M.Davis 4-14, Penny 4-4, Lockett 1-(minus 2). **Carolina,** McCaffrey 17-125, Newton 8-63, Samuel 1-25, D..Moore 1-7.
PASSING—**Seattle,** Wilson 22-31-0-339. **Carolina,** Newton 25-30-1-256.
RECEIVING—**Seattle,** Lockett 5-107, Baldwin 5-39, Da.Moore 4-103, Vannett 2-22, E.Dickson 2-13, Carson 2-8, Madden 1-28, M.Turner 1-19. **Carolina,** McCaffrey 11-112, D..Moore 8-91, J.Wright 2-25, Samuel 2-17, Olsen 2-11.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—**Carolina,** Gano 52.

Vikings outlast Packers

Defense stifles Rodgers; QB Cousins bounces back

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Once Kirk Cousins and the Minnesota Vikings took the lead on Green Bay, they played with a fierce refusal to let it go.

They held onto the ball with the same determination.

Cousins bounced back from his worst game of the season with 342 passing yards and three touchdowns without a fumble or an interception, and the Vikings overcame some early gaffes to outlast the depleted Packers for a 24-17 victory on Sunday night.

Completing 29 of his 38 attempts, Cousins found Dalvin Cook, Stefon Diggs and Adam Thielen for scores. Diggs and Thielen had eight receptions apiece.

"It just kind of shows his character, shows what kind of player he is, to be able to just not really care what people talk about him, not really care about what happened last week," Thielen said of Cousins, adding: "The throws he was making, his full game was really impressive. That's what you expect out of him."

Sheldon Richardson had two sacks to lead the defense's gamelong stifling of Aaron Rodgers, and the Vikings (6-4-1) pushed the Packers (4-6-1) further back in the NFC wild card race.

The Vikings won a night game for the first time this season after losing to the top three teams in the NFC: to the Rams in Los Angeles, at home to the New Orleans Saints and at Chicago in a two-interception game by Cousins against the first-place Bears. The Vikings entered the weekend with the fourth-most turnovers in the NFL, and Cousins has been charged with 13 of the 16 giveaways. Coach Mike Zimmer was so impressed by the way Cousins played against the Packers that he gave him the game ball in the locker room afterward .

"Last week I left a bad taste in our mouths," Cousins said, "and the chance to come back on Sunday night football against a division rival at home was a great opportunity, and I'm glad we made the most of it."

Rodgers threw a touchdown pass to Davante Adams and Aaron Jones scored on a short run for a 14-7 lead early in the second quarter, but the Packers fell to 0-6 on the road this season and 1-5-1 against the Vikings in their past seven meetings. Their final seven possessions produced only one field goal, with five punts and one turnover on downs.

"We've all got to play better, myself included," Rodgers said. "Started off the game nice. We had a couple good drives. We're rolling there. We hit our unfortunate typical lull and didn't get it going again."

With Randall Cobb out (hamstring) for a sixth game this season and rookies Equanimeous St. Brown (elbow) and Trevor Davis (hamstring) forced out in the second half, Rodgers didn't have much to work with down the field. Left guard Lane Taylor (quadriceps) departed in the first half and left tackle David Bakhtiari (knee) was sidelined in the second half, leaving the protection shaky at best. Rodgers finished 17-for-28 for 198 yards, without a turnover.

The Packers failed to move the chains on eight of 10 third downs. Jones was stuffed on fourth-and-inches by Harrison Smith, Danielle Hunter and Eric Kendricks midway through the third quarter, giving the Vikings the ball at the Green Bay 44. That set up a 37-yard field goal by Dan Bailey for Minnesota's first lead of the game.

"We're definitely not in the position, record-wise, we thought we would be in coming into the year or even after this game. We thought we could get the victory. But unfortunately we ran out of gas," Packers linebacker Clay Matthews said. "We're beat up, no doubt about that. But give them credit: They put in a full four quarters."

Vikings 24, Packers 17

Green Bay	7	7	0	3	—17
Minnesota	7	7	10	0	—24

First Quarter
GB—D.Adams 15 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 5:54.
Min—Cook 26 pass from Cousins (Bailey kick), 2:53.
Second Quarter
GB—A.Jones 6 run (Crosby kick), 14:16.
Min—Diggs 30 pass from Cousins (Bailey kick), 11:01.
Third Quarter
Min—FG Bailey 37, 3:27.
Min—Thielen 14 pass from Cousins (Bailey kick), :27.
Fourth Quarter
GB—FG Crosby 38, 2:20.
A—66,872.

	GB	Min
First downs	14	22
Total Net Yards	254	416
Rushes-yards	19-82	29-91
Passing	172	325
Punt Returns	3-36	2-20
Kickoff Returns	0-0	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	17-28-0	29-38-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-26	2-17
Punts	6-46.0	4-45.8
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-20	6-51
Time of Possession	25:23	34:37

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—**Green Bay,** A.Jones 17-52, St. Brown 1-5, J.Williams 1-5. **Minnesota,** Murray 11-33, Cook 10-29, Cousins 6-17, Diggs 1-12, Ham 1-0.
PASSING—**Green Bay,** Rodgers 17-28-0-198. **Minnesota,** Cousins 29-38-0-342.
RECEIVING—**Green Bay,** D.Adams 5-69, St. Brown 3-53, A.Jones 3-21, Graham 2-34, L.Kendricks 2-14, Valdes-Scantling 1-3. **Minnesota,** Thielen 8-125, Diggs 8-77, Rudolph 7-63, Cook 3-47, Ham 1-13, Robinson 1-11, Treadwell 1-6.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—**Minnesota,** Bailey 48, Bailey 56.

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers is sacked by Vikings defenders Danielle Hunter and Tom Johnson, center during the first half Sunday in Minneapolis.

BRUCE KLUCKHOHN/AP

NFL

American Conference

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	3	0	.727	307	249
Miami	5	6	0	.455	223	283
Buffalo	4	7	0	.364	161	272
N.Y. Jets	3	8	0	.273	221	281

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	7	3	0	.700	239	205
Indianapolis	6	5	0	.545	325	273
Tennessee	5	5	0	.500	178	189
Jacksonville	3	8	0	.273	197	243

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	7	3	1	.682	316	249
Baltimore	6	5	0	.545	271	198
Cincinnati	5	6	0	.455	256	347
Cleveland	4	6	1	.409	253	283

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	9	2	0	.818	404	294
L.A. Chargers	8	3	0	.727	307	219
Denver	5	6	0	.455	252	252
Oakland	2	9	0	.182	187	327

National Conference

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	6	5	0	.545	234	213
Washington	6	5	0	.545	220	229
Philadelphia	4	6	0	.455	230	253
N.Y. Giants	3	8	0	.273	237	288

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	10	1	0	.909	409	256
Carolina	6	5	0	.545	287	282
Atlanta	4	7	0	.364	280	307
Tampa Bay	4	7	0	.364	294	338

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	8	3	0	.727	317	211
Minnesota	6	4	1	.591	265	246
Green Bay	4	6	1	.409	264	267
Detroit	4	7	0	.364	238	286

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
L.A. Rams	10	1	0	.909	389	282
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	276	243
Arizona	2	9	0	.182	155	293
San Francisco	2	9	0	.182	239	293

Thursday's games
Chicago 23, Detroit 16
Dallas 31, Washington 23
New Orleans 31, Atlanta 17
Sunday's games
New England 27, N.Y. Jets 13
Baltimore 34, Oakland 17
Seattle 30, Carolina 27
Philadelphia 25, N.Y. Giants 22
Tampa Bay 27, San Francisco 9
Cleveland 35, Cincinnati 20
Buffalo 24, Jacksonville 21
L.A. Chargers 45, Arizona 10
Indianapolis 27, Miami 24
Denver 24, Pittsburgh 17
Minnesota 24, Green Bay 17
Open: L.A. Rams, Kansas City
Monday's game
Tennessee at Houston
Thursday, Nov. 29
New Orleans at Dallas
Sunday, Dec. 2
L.A. Rams at Detroit
Carolina at Tampa Bay
Arizona at Green Bay
Denver at Cincinnati
Baltimore at Atlanta
Chicago at N.Y. Giants
Buffalo at Miami
N.Y. Jets at Tennessee
Kansas City at Oakland
San Francisco at Seattle
Minnesota at New England
L.A. Chargers at Pittsburgh
Monday, Dec. 3
Washington at Philadelphia

MARK LoMOGLIO/AP

Buccaneers wide receiver Adam Humphries hugs quarterback Jameis Winston during the second half of Sunday's game against the 49ers Sunday after the two connected on a touchdown pass.

Winston shines, Bucs beat 49ers to end skid

TAMPA, Fla. — Jameis Winston is determined to make the most of his latest opportunity to prove he's Tampa Bay's long-term solution at quarterback.

The fourth-year pro sparkled in his first start in a month, throwing for 312 yards and two touchdowns as the Buccaneers beat the San Francisco 49ers.

"Jameis wasn't perfect, but he played a good game," coach Dirk Koetter said after the Bucs snapped a four-game losing streak.

Winston, benched last month after turning the ball over 11 times in 14 quarters, completed 29 of 38 passes without an interception. He led TD drives of 73, 75 and 85 yards.

Buccaneers 27, 49ers 9

San Francisco	0	6	3	0	—9
Tampa Bay	7	6	7	7	—27

First Quarter
TB—Brate 6 pass from Winston (Santos kick), 8:21.
Second Quarter
SF—Pettis 13 pass from Mullens (kick failed), 8:32.
TB—FG Santos 41, 3:21.
TB—FG Santos 39, :06.
Third Quarter
SF—FG Gould 23, 11:02.
TB—Barber 2 run (Santos kick), 8:25.
Fourth Quarter
TB—Humphries 28 pass from Winston (Santos kick), 14:10.
A—50,436.

	SF	TB
First downs	23	25
Total Net Yards	342	412
Rushes-yards	24-148	31-108
Passing	194	304
Punt Returns	2-6	1-6
Kickoff Returns	3-44	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-7
Comp-Att-Int	18-32-2	29-38-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-27	1-8
Punts	6-43.3	5-46.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	8-68	9-70
Time of Possession	25:51	34:09

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—San Francisco, Breida 14-106, Wilson 7-33, Kittle 1-10, Mullens 2-(minus 1). **Tampa Bay**, Barber 18-47, Rodgers 5-31, Winston 7-24, Jackson 1-6.
PASSING—San Francisco, Mullens 18-32-2-221. **Tampa Bay**, Winston 29-38-0-312.
RECEIVING—San Francisco, Kittle 6-48, Pettis 4-77, Breida 3-34, Bourne 2-27, James 2-27, Wilson 1-8. **Tampa Bay**, M.Evans 6-116, Humphries 6-54, Godwin 4-42, Rodgers 4-31, Brate 3-26, Jackson 3-19, Barber 2-16, Auclair 1-8.

Jackson, Edwards and Ravens run over Raiders

BALTIMORE — Lamar Jackson proved in the first half that he was capable of throwing the football as well as running it.

After that, the Ravens rookie quarterback got back to what he does best — much to the delight of his offensive line.

Jackson ran all over the Oakland Raiders, finishing with 71 yards rushing and a touchdown to carry the Ravens past Oakland.

Terrell Suggs returned a fumble 43 yards for a score and Cyrus Jones took a punt 70 yards for a touchdown to help Baltimore (6-5) win a second straight game for the first time since September.

Gus Edwards rushed for 118 yards as part of an effective ground game that kept the Raiders off guard — and off the field.

Ravens 34, Raiders 17

Oakland	7	3	7	0	—17
Baltimore	3	10	7	14	—34

First Quarter
Oak—Martin 1 run (Carlson kick), 8:45.
Bal—FG Tucker 47, 4:28.
Second Quarter
Bal—FG Tucker 28, 7:11.
Bal—Jones 70 punt return (Tucker kick), 12:45.
Oak—FG Carlson 42, 2:34.
Third Quarter
Bal—L.Jackson 5 run (Tucker kick), 8:10.
Oak—Cook 16 pass from D.Carr (Carlson kick), 5:09.
Fourth Quarter
Bal—Crabtree 8 pass from L.Jackson (Tucker kick), 11:16.
Bal—Suggs 43 fumble return (Tucker kick), 5:55.
A—70,035.

	Oak	Bal
First downs	13	23
Total Net Yards	182	285
Rushes-yards	19-67	43-242
Passing	182	174
Punt Returns	1-(minu	4-79
Kickoff Returns	2-44	2-59
Interceptions Ret.	1-2	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	16-34-0	14-25-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-12	1-4
Punts	6-44.7	2-47.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards	4-24	6-45
Time of Possession	25:48	34:12

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Oakland, Martin 11-51, Roberts 1-11, Washington 3-8, Richard 1-1, J.Nelson 1-(minus 2), McCarron 2-(minus 2). **Baltimore**, Edwards 23-118, L.Jackson 11-71, Montgomery 8-51, Allen 1-2.
PASSING—Oakland, D.Carr 16-34-0-194. **Baltimore**, L.Jackson 14-25-2-178.
RECEIVING—Oakland, Martin 3-21, Ateman 3-16, Roberts 2-54, L.Smith 2-39, Cook 2-32, Richard 2-15, Washington 1-9, Hatcher 1-8. **Baltimore**, H.Hurst 3-25, Crabtree 3-21, Montgomery 3-13, Boyle 2-19, Andrews 1-74, J.Brown 1-25, Moore 1-1.

JACK DEMPSEY/AP

Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger throws as Broncos defensive end Shelby Harris makes the hit during the first half on Sunday. Roethlisberger left the game after the hit but returned.

Mayfield has 4 TDs, Browns rout Bengals

CINCINNATI — As the touchdown passes quickly piled up, Baker Mayfield felt like he was back at Oklahoma leading his team to another freewheeling win.

His new team — the Cleveland Browns — are starting to feel a bit like it's the good old days, too.

Mayfield set a Browns rookie record with four touchdown passes, and Cleveland ended one of the NFL's longest streaks of road futility by beating the hapless Bengals, who lost quarterback Andy Dalton to a thumb injury.

Cleveland (4-6-1) emphatically snapped a streak of 25 straight road losses that was one shy of the Lions' NFL record. The Browns also ended a run of seven straight losses to their intrastate rival after trading trash talk on the field beforehand.

Browns 35, Bengals 20

Cleveland	14	14	7	0	—35
Cincinnati	0	7	7	6	—20

First Quarter
Cle—Chubb 1 run (Joseph kick), 9:11.
Cle—Callaway 13 pass from Mayfield (Joseph kick), 1:37.
Second Quarter
Cle—Njoku 6 pass from Mayfield (Joseph kick), 9:18.
Cle—Chubb 14 pass from Mayfield (Joseph kick), 2:25.
Cin—Ross 2 pass from Dalton (Bullock kick), :32.
Third Quarter
Cle—Fells 6 pass from Mayfield (Joseph kick), 12:56.
Cin—Boyd 28 pass from Driskel (Bullock kick), 6:56.
Fourth Quarter
Cin—Driskel 2 run (kick failed), 7:57.
A—56,122.

	Cle	Cin
First downs	24	25
Total Net Yards	342	372
Rushes-yards	35-84	20-129
Passing	258	243
Punt Returns	2-6	3-57
Kickoff Returns	2-33	2-49
Interceptions Ret.	1-2	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	19-26-0	27-46-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	1-12
Punts	4-47.0	2-49.5
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	7-61	13-96
Time of Possession	32:04	27:56

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Cleveland, Chubb 28-84, D.Johnson 2-16, Mayfield 4-(minus 4), Perriman 1-(minus 12). **Cincinnati**, Mixon 14-89, Dalton 2-21, Bernard 1-10, Driskel 3-9.
PASSING—Cleveland, Mayfield 19-26-0-258. **Cincinnati**, Dalton 10-17-1-100, Driskel 17-29-0-155.
RECEIVING—Cleveland, Njoku 5-63, Callaway 4-62, Chubb 3-44, Landry 3-30, Higgins 1-34, D.Johnson 1-23, Perriman 1-1, Fells 1-6. **Cincinnati**, Boyd 7-85, Mixon 7-66, Uzomah 6-39, Ross 3-31, Tate 2-15, Bernard 1-12, Core 1-7.

Broncos snap Steelers' six-game winning streak

DENVER — Nose tackle Shelby Harris picked off Ben Roethlisberger's pass to Antonio Brown in the end zone with 1:03 remaining to seal Denver's win over Pittsburgh that snapped the Steelers' six-game winning streak.

"I never thought in a million years a defensive lineman would get blocked off the ball that far, right into an interception," Roethlisberger said. "But, good play by him. A.B. was coming, I just never thought that guy would make that play."

"I got to prove to everyone that I have the best hands on the team," Harris said.

The Broncos (5-6) used four takeaways to counter a 97-yard touchdown toss from Roethlisberger to JuJu Smith-Schuster.

Broncos 24, Steelers 17

Pittsburgh	0	10	7	0	—17
Denver	3	7	7	7	—24

First Quarter
Den—FG McManus 41, 6:26.
Second Quarter
Pit—FG Boswell 41, 3:27.
Den—LaCosse 10 pass from Keenum (McManus kick), 3:27.
Pit—Villanueva 2 pass from Boswell (Boswell kick), :00.
Third Quarter
Pit—Smith-Schuster 97 pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 10:32.
Den—McManus 5 pass from Keenum (McManus kick), 5:30.
Fourth Quarter
Den—Lindsay 2 run (McManus kick), 7:10.
A—76,536.

	Pit	Den
First downs	25	17
Total Net Yards	527	308
Rushes-yards	16-75	33-124
Passing	452	184
Punt Returns	3-6	1-6
Kickoff Returns	0-0	2-15
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-31
Comp-Att-Int	42-58-2	15-28-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-12	2-13
Punts	3-44.3	6-47.0
Fumbles-Lost	4-2	0-0
Penalties-Yards	5-34	6-50
Time of Possession	35:00	25:00

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Pittsburgh, Conner 13-53, Roethlisberger 2-18, Switzer 1-4. **Denver**, Lindsay 14-110, Freeman 6-17, Keenum 3-(minus 3).
PASSING—Pittsburgh, Roethlisberger 41-56-2-462, Brown 0-1-0-0, Boswell 1-1-0-2. **Denver**, Keenum 15-28-0-197.
RECEIVING—Pittsburgh, Smith-Schuster 13-189, Brown 9-67, Switzer 6-67, Conner 4-42, James 4-35, McDonald 3-27, Grimble 1-23, Samuels 1-12, Villanueva 1-2. **Denver**, Sanders 7-86, LaCosse 3-34, Heuerman 2-44, Co.Sutton 1-14, Hamilton 1-13, Booker 1-6.

— Associated Press

NFL

KELVIN KUO/AP

Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers, left, celebrates after throwing a touchdown pass against the Cardinals during the first half on Sunday.

Chargers' Rivers sets two completion marks

CARSON, Calif. — After a record-breaking day, Philip Rivers was quick to credit the guys on the receiving end of his pinpoint passes.

Rivers tied the NFL mark for consecutive completions and broke records for the most to start a game and the highest completion percentage in a game as the Chargers dismantled the Cardinals.

"There were some catches that could easily fall incomplete. There were a lot of guys involved in it," Rivers said.

The 15-year veteran was on target with his first 25 passes, tying Ryan Tannehill's mark from 2015, and finished 28-for-29 for 259 yards and three touchdowns.

Rivers — who said he did not know he was near Tannehill's record — tied the mark for consecutive completions with a 4-yard touchdown pass to Keenan Allen midway through the third quarter. He had his only incompletion on the next possession when he was rushed and was unable to connect on a short pass to Austin Ekeler.

Chargers 45, Cardinals 10

Arizona	10	0	0	0—10
L.A. Chargers	0	28	14	3—45

First Quarter
Ari—Fitzgerald 28 pass from Rosen (Dawson kick), 10:20.
Ari—FG Dawson 30, 4:22.
Second Quarter
LAC—M.Williams 9 pass from Rivers (Badgley kick), 14:12.
LAC—Gordon 28 run (Badgley kick), 6:59.
LAC—Gordon 5 run (Badgley kick), 4:16.
LAC—M.Williams 2 pass from Rivers (Badgley kick), :08.
Third Quarter
LAC—Allen 4 pass from Rivers (Badgley kick), 8:01.
LAC—Ekeler 2 run (Badgley kick), :42.
Fourth Quarter
LAC—FG Badgley 31, 3:25.
A—25,343.

	Ari	LAC
First downs	10	30
Total Net Yards	149	414
Rushes-yards	24-62	30-178
Passing	87	236
Punt Returns	1-26	2-28
Kickoff Returns	6-139	3-87
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-3
Comp-Att-Int	12-19-1	28-32-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-18	4-23
Punts	5-49.2	2-52.5
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	3-35	4-30
Time of Possession	24:42	35:18

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Arizona, D.Johnson 17-63, Edmonds 5-0, Rosen 2-(minus 1). Los Angeles, Gordon 10-61, Jackson 7-57, Ekeler 5-35, Newsome 4-15, G.Smith 3-7, Rivers 1-3.
PASSING—Arizona, Rosen 12-19-1-105. Los Angeles, Rivers 28-29-0-259, G.Smith 0-3-0-0.
RECEIVING—Arizona, Kirk 4-41, Fitzgerald 2-30, D.Johnson 2-16, Sherfield 1-6, Seals-Jones 1-5, Logan 1-5, Gresham 1-2. Los Angeles, Ekeler 10-68, Allen 7-72, M.Williams 4-25, Benjamin 3-47, Gordon 2-8, Gates 1-18.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Arizona, Dawson 46.

Luck's closing flurry lifts Colts over Miami

INDIANAPOLIS — Andrew Luck threw three touchdown passes, Adam Vinatieri kicked a 32-yard field goal as time expired and Indianapolis beat Miami for its fifth consecutive victory.

Indianapolis (6-5) scored 13 points in the final 8½ minutes to erase a 10-point deficit. It's the longest winning streak for the Colts since 2014.

Miami (5-6) has lost 10 of its past 11 on the road, perhaps none more frustrating than this one. The Dolphins picked off Luck twice, recovered a fumble and partially blocked a punt on their way to a 24-14 lead.

It still wasn't enough to derail the resurgent Luck, who was 30-for-37 for 343 yards. He also had the first catch of his NFL career, a 4-yard reception on fourth-and-1 late in the first half. Luck capped that drive with a 1-yard TD pass to Jack Doyle.

Luck has thrown at least three TD passes in eight consecutive games, tying Peyton Manning for the second-longest streak in NFL history.

Colts 27, Dolphins 24

Miami	7	7	3	7—24
Indianapolis	7	7	0	13—27

First Quarter
Mia—Drake 33 pass from Tannehill (Sanders kick), 12:22.
Ind—Ebron 14 pass from Luck (Vinatieri kick), 9:37.
Second Quarter
Ind—Doyle 1 pass from Luck (Vinatieri kick), 1:44.
Mia—Carroo 74 pass from Tannehill (Sanders kick), 1:00.
Third Quarter
Mia—FG Sanders 29, 9:14.
Fourth Quarter
Mia—Drake 14 run (Sanders kick), 13:36.
Ind—FG Vinatieri 46, 8:26.
Ind—Ebron 12 pass from Luck (Vinatieri kick), 4:25.
Ind—FG Vinatieri 32, :00.
A—57,069.

	Mia	Ind
First downs	14	26
Total Net Yards	314	455
Rushes-yards	25-113	26-118
Passing	201	337
Punt Returns	1-0	3-14
Kickoff Returns	1-12	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	2-(minu	—
Comp-Att-Int	17-25-0	31-38-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-20	1-10
Punts	6-47.5	3-34.3
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	10-75	7-52
Time of Possession	28:06	31:54

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Miami, Gore 14-67, Drake 8-32, Tannehill 3-14. Indianapolis, Mack 15-85, Hines 9-28, Luck 2-5.
PASSING—Miami, Tannehill 17-25-0-204. Indianapolis, Luck 30-37-2-343, Brissett 1-1-0-4.
RECEIVING—Miami, Drake 5-64, Parker 3-10, Smythe 2-27, Ballage 2-(minus 5), Carroo 1-74, Amendola 1-13, Gore 1-10, Stills 1-6, Gesicki 1-5. Indianapolis, Hilton 7-125, Ebron 5-45, Doyle 4-18, Rogers 3-49, Inman 3-40, Wilkins 3-32, Hines 2-22, Mack 2-11, Luck 1-4, R.Grant 1-3.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Indianapolis, Vinatieri 48.

Allen returns, leads Bills to win over Jaguars

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Once Leonard Fournette and the Jaguars lost their cool, Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills took over.

Allen scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 14-yard run in the fourth quarter, and Buffalo beat Jacksonville in a game marred by a fight that led to the ejections of Fournette and Bills defensive end Shaq Lawson.

"I take full responsibility for that," Fournette said.

Fournette scored twice and had 95 yards rushing before he was thrown out in the third quarter.

Allen also threw a 75-yard touchdown pass to Robert Foster in the opening quarter in his return to the lineup after missing four games with a sprained right throwing elbow.

Bills 24, Jaguars 21

Jacksonville	0	14	0	7—21
Buffalo	14	0	0	10—24

First Quarter
Buf—McKenzie 6 run (Hauschka kick), 5:02.
Buf—Foster 75 pass from Allen (Hauschka kick), 2:39.
Second Quarter
Jac—Fournette 5 run (Lambo kick), 10:58.
Jac—Fournette 1 run (Lambo kick), 5:30.
Fourth Quarter
Buf—Allen 14 run (Hauschka kick), 14:52.
Buf—FG Hauschka 22, 3:06.
Jac—Westbrook 13 pass from Bortles (Lambo kick), 1:20.
A—57,799.

	Jac	Buf
First downs	25	18
Total Net Yards	333	327
Rushes-yards	39-226	35-167
Passing	107	160
Punt Returns	2-33	3-13
Kickoff Returns	3-62	3-66
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-12
Comp-Att-Int	12-23-2	8-19-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-20	0-0
Punts	6-47.8	7-44.9
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-0
Penalties-Yards	10-90	13-80
Time of Possession	32:42	27:18

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Jacksonville, Fournette 18-95, Westbrook 1-43, Bortles 6-39, C.Hyde 10-33, Yeldon 3-16, Bohanon 1-0. Buffalo, Allen 13-99, McCoy 17-46, Ivory 3-14, McKenzie 2-8.
RECEIVING—Jacksonville, Bortles 12-23-2-127. Buffalo, Allen 8-19-0-160.
PASSING—Jacksonville, Westbrook 3-44, Fournette 3-13, Bohanon 2-19, Yeldon 2-17, Moncrief 1-29, Bell 1-5. Buffalo, Foster 2-94, Croom 2-16, McKenzie 2-11, Benjamin 1-32, McCoy 1-7.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Jacksonville, Lambo 42.

Elliott's 43-yard FG lifts Eagles past Giants

PHILADELPHIA — The injury-depleted defense held on long enough for Carson Wentz and Philadelphia's new-found rushing attack to rally.

Jake Elliott kicked a 43-yard field goal with 22 seconds remaining, and the Eagles beat the New York Giants after trailing 12-0 early and 19-14 in the fourth quarter.

Wentz made key throws, and undrafted rookie Josh Adams delivered big runs to put the defending Super Bowl champions back in the playoff chase.

"This was a big game mentally, to show resilience and battle back," said Wentz, who was 20-for-28 for 236 yards.

Adams scored on a 1-yard TD run and ran up the middle for the 2-point conversion to give Philadelphia a 22-19 lead.

Eagles 25, Giants 22

New York	9	10	0	3—22
Philadelphia	0	11	3	11—25

First Quarter
NYG—Barkley 13 pass from Manning (pass failed), 10:38.
NYG—FG Rosas 25, 3:13.
Second Quarter
NYG—FG Rosas 51, 9:34.
Phi—FG Elliott 42, 5:19.
NYG—Barkley 51 run (Rosas kick), 4:06.
Phi—Ertz 15 pass from Wentz (Clement run), 1:04.
Third Quarter
Phi—FG Elliott 28, 6:49.
Fourth Quarter
Phi—Adams 1 run (Adams run), 10:11.
NYG—FG Rosas 29, 5:49.
Phi—FG Elliott 43, :22.
A—69,696.

	NYG	Phi
First downs	18	19
Total Net Yards	402	341
Rushes-yards	18-126	29-127
Passing	276	214
Punt Returns	2-25	2-4
Kickoff Returns	1-20	2-51
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-25
Comp-Att-Int	26-37-1	20-28-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-21	3-22
Punts	3-44.3	4-50.3
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	11-91	7-46
Time of Possession	27:23	32:38

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—New York, Barkley 13-101, Gallman 5-25. Philadelphia, Adams 22-84, Clement 5-45, Wentz 2-(minus 2).
PASSING—New York, Manning 26-37-1-297. Philadelphia, Wentz 20-28-0-236.
RECEIVING—New York, Barkley 7-41, Beckham 5-85, Ellison 4-77, S.Shepard 4-37, Fowler 2-23, Gallman 2-(minus 2), R.Shepard 1-29, Engram 1-21. Philadelphia, Ertz 7-91, Tate 4-30, Jeffery 3-39, Goedert 3-33, Clement 2-31, Agholor 1-12.

Brady new NFL leader in yards passing

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Tom Brady set yet another NFL record. Ho-hum. The New England Patriots quarterback was more excited about earning another victory.

Brady threw two touchdown passes and became the career leader in total yards passing in regular-season and playoff games, leading the Patriots past the New York Jets.

"Just wins," Brady said. "That's what we're here for. I'm trying to be a part of as many of those as I can."

Well, the five-time Super Bowl champion certainly has lots of those.

The latest clinched the Patriots (8-3) their 18th straight season with a .500 record or better.

Patriots 27, Jets 13

New England	7	3	10	7—27
New York	7	3	3	0—13

First Quarter
NYJ—Kearse 16 pass from McCown (Myers kick), 4:02.
NE—Gronkowski 34 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 1:11.
Second Quarter
NE—FG Gostkowski 34, 2:27.
NYJ—FG Myers 55, :03.
Third Quarter
NE—FG Gostkowski 32, 8:34.
NYJ—FG Myers 38, 4:00.
NE—Edelman 21 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 1:52.
Fourth Quarter
NE—Michel 1 run (Gostkowski kick), 8:54.
A—77,982.

	NE	NYJ
First downs	25	19
Total Net Yards	498	338
Rushes-yards	36-215	15-74
Passing	283	264
Punt Returns	2-0	1-1
Kickoff Returns	1-15	1-52
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	20-31-0	26-45-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	2-11
Punts	4-46.0	5-44.4
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	5-37	8-34
Time of Possession	34:26	25:34

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—New England, Michel 21-133, White 9-73, Patterson 5-10, Brady 1-(minus 1). New York, Crowell 6-30, McCown 3-25, McGuire 6-19.
PASSING—New England, Brady 20-31-0-283. New York, McCown 26-45-1-276.
RECEIVING—New England, Gordon 5-70, Edelman 4-84, Gronkowski 3-56, Hogan 2-47, Michel 2-12, Dorsett 2-10, White 1-5, Patterson 1-(minus 1). New York, Herndon 7-57, Kearse 6-66, Enunwa 4-73, Crowell 3-30, Leggett 2-24, R.Anderson 2-22, McGuire 1-7, T.Cannon 1-(minus 3).

— Associated Press

JEFFREY T. BARNES/AP

Bills quarterback Josh Allen celebrates after throwing a touchdown pass to wide receiver Robert Foster during the first half on Sunday against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

SPORTS

NFL

Not ready for Atlanta

Patriots need improvements to return to Super Bowl

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — When Patriots players looked around the locker room Sunday, they saw a generally healthy squad. That's scary for the rest of the NFL.

Or maybe not.

Unless New England makes some key improvements over the next month — and can anyone doubt the Patriots will, given their track record? — a third straight trip to the Super Bowl will be problematic.

In their 27-13 victory over the game but outmanned Jets, the Patriots (8-3) pretty much were workmanlike. Given the competition this season from the likes of the Chiefs, Steelers, Chargers and Texans, that might not be enough.

Sure, the running game was a major positive as New England rushed for 215 yards, led by rookie Sony Michel's season-best 133 on 21 carries. And the defense was OK.

But these were the Jets, who don't measure up in any way to any AFC contenders. Things will get more difficult in December, though not terribly so. And in January, unless the Patriots grab home-field advantage in the AFC — they trail only Kansas City by one game and own the tiebreaker — their defense will need to be stout against some high-scoring, big-play offenses.

Considering the holes in that defense that the Jets were incapable of exploiting often enough, New England has some issues it hasn't been plagued by during its remarkable Tom Brady-led run since the early 2000s.

These Patriots don't have the look of a team that can avoid shootouts, especially on the road. When you have Brady and Julian Edelman and Rob Gronkowski — and now Michel — on your side,

SETH WENIG/AP
Patriots quarterback Tom Brady looks at his hand after getting hurt during the first half Sunday against the Jets in East Rutherford, N.J.

Jaguars fire offensive coordinator Hackett » **Page 28**